WORLD/ A26

Saddam cousin
'Chemical Ali' to be hanged for genocide

LIFESTYLE / C1

Festival of fearless
virgins to showcase fresh, daring plays

ACROSS / A18

New cities:
Tabuk, Batac and Borongan

ENTERTAINMENT/ F6

Mutya ng Pilipinas '06
reveals secrets of Miss Universe tilt

Monday, June 25, 2007 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 197 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

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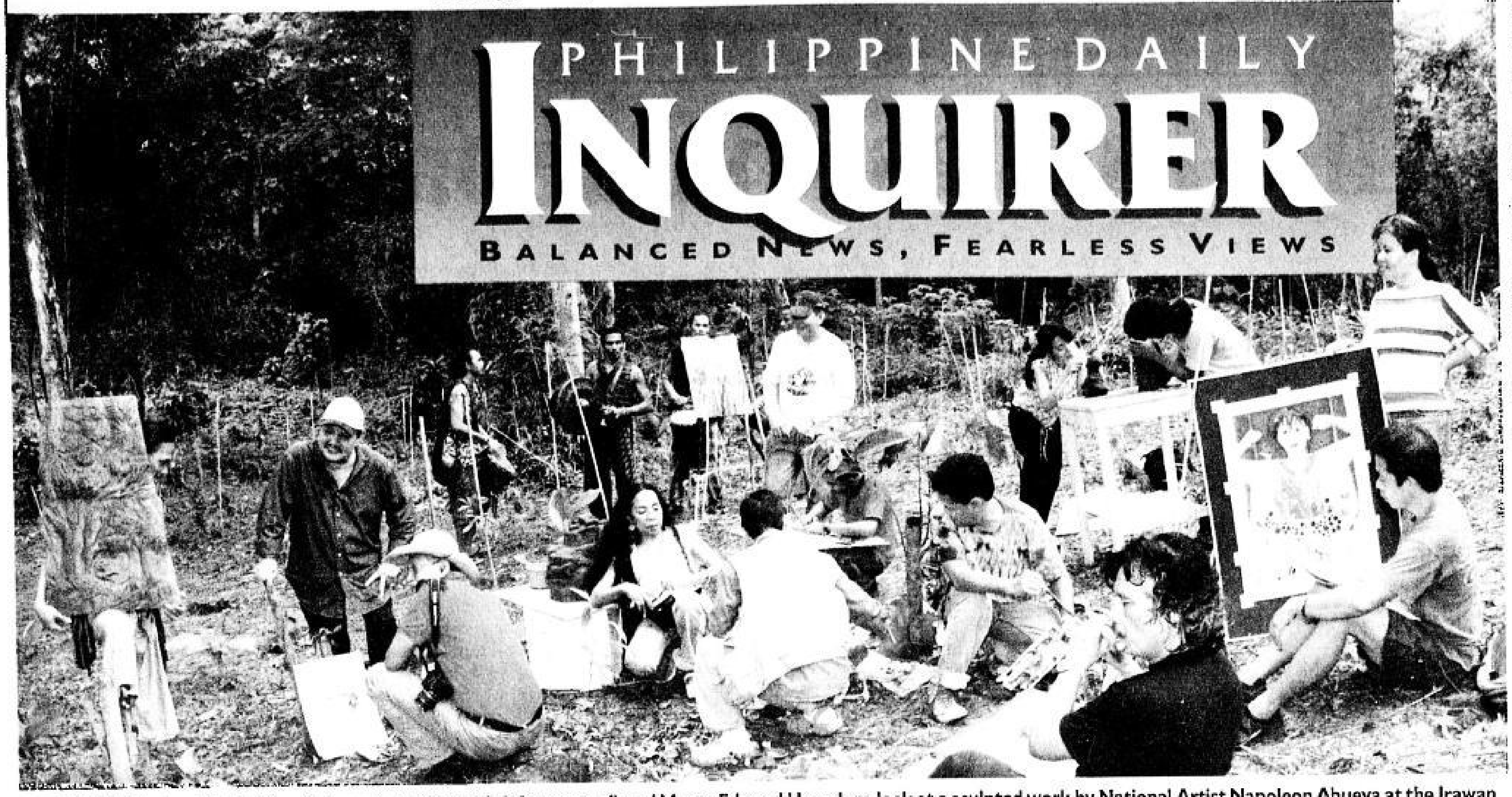


GREEN ART. National Artist Ben Cabrera (squatting at left foreground) and Mayor Edward Hagedorn look at a sculpted work by National Artist Napoleon Abueva at the Irawan Watershed in Puerto Princesa City. Cabrera, Abueva and other noted artists joined Saturday's annual "Feast of the Forest" (Pista Y Ang Kagueban) celebration. MELVYN CALDERON

Noted artists lead tree-planting feast in Puerto Princesa

By Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—They began before sunrise. Droves of students, government employees, tourists and ordinary folk, hauled in by garbage trucks sanitized for the occasion, descended Saturday on the rain-drenched forest floor of Mt. Irawan.

The event marked the 15th year of the city's annual tree-planting extravaganza that has become both a tourist attraction and a novelty in environmental governance.

By daybreak, the crisp mountain air of the Irawan hillside was filled with the aroma of freshly cooked rice porridge prepared for the volunteers and with the drone of live ethnic music by the local band Sinika.

By the end of the day, an estimated 40,000 seedlings of mahogany, acacia mangium and local tree species had been plant-

NOTED/ A21

3rd general breaks silence on murders

Confirms 2005 discussion on killings of leftists

By Christian V. Esguerra

A THIRD GENERAL OF THE Armed Forces has come forward to confirm that killings of political activists were discussed "openly" in a top-level military conference about two years ago.

Speaking on condition of anonymity for security reasons, the general said he was present when two other generals discussed the military's course of action in the midst of the communist threat in key areas in Luzon.

One of the two generals, then with some 3,000 soldiers at his disposal, was assigned the topic "extrajudicial killings," according to the INQUIRER informant.

He said the general who handled that topic tackled the idea of killing suspected communist insurgents and sympathizers even in places outside of his jurisdiction.

The revelations coincided with statements by Chief Justice Reynato Puno that the Supreme Court planned to call a multisectoral summit next month to discuss what role the judiciary could play in stemming the tide of political killings in the country.

Puno said the summit might redefine the concept of "command responsibility" to curb incidents of human rights abuses.

3RD GENERAL/ A20

Migz: I can take defeat, but how about Koko?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jocelyn R. Uy

"I'M WILLING TO ACCEPT DEfeat, but is he willing to do the same?"

Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri of Team Unity (TU) yesterday posed this question to his bitter rival, Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III of the Genuine Opposition (GO), on the eve of the crucial canvassing of votes in Maguindanao which would determine who between them would end up in the Senate.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Zubiri spoke of the most "trying time" of his life.

"I was prepared for anything when I decided to run for a national post, win or lose. What I did not expect was this dragged out vote count which is torture because I have to endure all the mud Koko and his backers have thrown at me," the TU aspirant said.

"It really hurts because my family has never cheated its way through any election."

That he could win in Mindanao

MIGZ/ A12

GMA longs for return of OFWs

By Daxim L. Lucas

SINGAPORE—PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo yesterday said her administration was seeking to make overseas employment optional rather than a matter of survival for many Filipinos.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum on East Asia, Ms Arroyo said that the government was investing in "human infrastructure," including fresh funds meant to improve the country's education and health care systems, on top of traditional infrastructure like roads and bridges. *(Related story on Page A2.)*

"We're proud of our OFWs

GMA LONGS/ A20

WATER FESTIVALS

FIRE TRUCKS spray water on people crowding the streets of San Juan City in celebration of the feast of St. John the Baptist. *(See story in Metro, Page A24.)* A different kind of celebration swept through Barangay Bibiclat in Aliaga, Nueva Ecija (below, left), with residents bathed in mud and wearing banana leaves. In Balayan, Batangas (below, right), pigs take center stage during the fiesta in honor of the patron saint. ERIK ARAZAS

Palace, Left welcome summit on slays

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Leila B. Salaverria

IN WHAT SEEMED A RARE OCcurrence, some of the country's policymakers and segments of the Left agreed yesterday on one thing.

They welcomed Chief Justice Reynato Puno's proposal for a broad-based summit next month to discuss reforms the courts could undertake to curb political killings in the country.

Even an occasional critic of the Supreme Court, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, found some merit in the idea.

But reaction was lacking from the military—the main government unit involved in the problem of political killings—despite INQUIRER efforts to contact its officials.

"We see no problem with that," National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales told reporters, referring to the Puno proposal. "Justice Puno's statements were good, we support that. I'm glad all branches of government are giving attention to this issue."

Malacañang also appeared supportive of the high court's renewed interest in again tackling presidential Executive Order No. 464, which has shielded President Macapagal-Arroyo's political and security advisers

PALACE/ A6

Fil-Am whiz kid receives Bush award

By Tarra Quismundo

HE WAS TEASED FOR BEING short, but when the bespectacled Filipino-American delivered his witty lines, the jokes died down.

Being different did not make Darren Diaz, 10, so. He got straight As at an elementary school in the city of Alpharetta in Georgia, earning him an education award from US President George W. Bush.

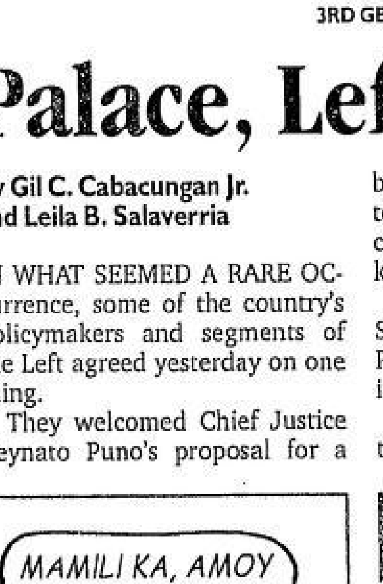
"It was exhilarating, exciting. I didn't expect it. I just don't expect things ... they just pop in my face," Darren told the INQUIRER on the phone.

FIL-AM/ A19

Rosato or lemato? This tomato has floral, fruity smell

PARIS—ISRAELI RESEARCHERS say they have produced a genetically engineered tomato that has done well in taste tests with its hint of lemon and rose aromas.

ROSATO/ A20


MAMILI KA, AMOY LEMON O ROSAS?

Dropouts take DepEd alternative

By Elvira Mata

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A world boxing champ in order to pass the Department of Education's Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) test and get a high school diploma.

You can avail yourself of the DepEd's Alternative Learning System (ALS), a practical option to the existing formal instruction for out-of-school youths and adults aged 16 years and over.

Since 2004, out-of-school youths have enrolled at the nearest DepEd school division between June and November, and attended the ALS sessions where they are given (or allowed to photocopy) modules for self-learning. In some centers, teachers or facilitators conduct reviews for the A&E' test which is given in February every year.

A&E exam results are usually

DROPOUTS/ A20

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Quakes hit Taal as spa debate rages

By Volt Contreras and Marlon Ramos, *Inquirer Southern Luzon*

TWO MODERATE EARTHQUAKES YESTERDAY jolted Taal Volcano island as the debate over the planned construction of a health spa resort at the volcano's crater by a Korean company raged on.

Although the tremors alarmed some residents, seismologists said there was no danger of an imminent eruption. The earthquakes, just minutes apart, caused no injuries or damage, officials said.

Hundreds of farmers, fishermen and locals residing around the volcano island are protesting the construction of a high-end spa and wellness center along the scenic volcano.

The bold project by Korean firm Jung Ang Interventure Inc. would encroach on thousands of hectares of farmlands and fishing grounds around the volcano, they said.

Government seismologists are also not keen on the project.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) is opposing the plan since it would involve structures that would permanently house people.

Phivolcs relayed its position on the project to the municipal government of Talisay, Batangas, which asked the agency to make a hazard assessment of the spa project.

In an interview, Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum said the agency had advised against the building of "structures of permanent use, since these will put people at risk."

He explained, however, that "it is not an issue" for Phivolcs if "ecotourism projects will be developed" at Taal or on any other active volcano in the country. "Viewing decks are okay and are very common," he said.

But it would be a different matter if structures were built "at the crater" for tourists, customers or workers to stay in overnight or for days, he said.

"Taal is one of the most active volcanoes in the country and a permanent danger zone, the main crater being the most dangerous part," he said.

Taal, a national park, has been under alert level 1 for showing "abnormal" activity since October 2004.

Considered the smallest active volcano in the world, it continuously draws international and local tourists.

"Phivolcs does not encourage the construction of structures for permanent habitation in areas declared as permanent danger zones in all active volcanoes in the country," he said.

He noted that Taal's main crater had been "a very high-risk area" which saw destructive eruptions, particularly in 1754 and 1911.

Since 2005, Taal has been showing signs of restiveness.

Taal erupted mildly in 1977, causing no casualties or damage. A strong eruption in 1965 killed about 200 people living nearby.

Yesterday's quakes were felt by local villagers in the early morning. An Intensity 3 quake was recorded at 2:38 a.m., followed by another at Intensity 2 about a minute later.

Protesters, led by the group Samahan ng mga Maralitang Mamamayan sa Palibot ng Lawa ng Taal (Samataal), said the spa project would not only destroy the rich natural resources of the volcano but would also kill the livelihood of more than 6,000 residents of the area.

On Sunday, the group embarked on a four-kilometer trek to the highest point of the volcano in Barangay Looc to call on the government to immediately rescind the disastrous project.

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) has also asked Sen. Jamby Madrigal to initiate an investigation into the planned eviction of farmers on Taal volcano island to make way for the spa.

"How can a foreign firm get ownership of land when it is prohibited by the Constitution? The land in question is also declared a no-man's land and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivocs) told them not to build structures there because it is a permanent danger zone," Willy Marbella, KMP internal deputy secretary general, said in a statement.

"We are talking about an active volcano, that is on permanent level one alert status and any deep diggings may cause it to erupt," he said.

Marbella said the Department of Tourism had endorsed the Taal Volcano spa resort.

According to him, the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region 4-A had issued an ECC for the establishment of a spa resort at Taal volcano. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

JDV: House to probe charges of extortion for appointments

By Christian V. Esguerra

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA YESTERDAY said he would initiate a House inquiry into the accusation of outgoing Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves that certain congressmen-members of the powerful Commission on Appointments had engaged in extortion.

"I will have it investigated. We will look into the matter," De Venecia, who is with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Singapore for the two-day World Economic Forum was quoted as saying by Noel Albano, House deputy secretary general for public relations and information.

On Friday, Teves accused unnamed members of the panel from the Lower House of extorting money from certain government appointees up to as much as P5 million to have their appointments cleared.

Teves, 85, said his son, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, was victimized by the group of congressmen he branded as the "Big Five."

The elder Teves said he would name names in the proper forum, such as in a congressional inquiry or an investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Teves told the INQUIRER that the lawmakers even demanded money from military officers up for confirmation before the CA.

"The money demanded depended on the area to which a commander was being assigned," said Teves. "Naturally, the demand was bigger in places where, say, 'jueteng' (the illegal numbers game) is rampant. The idea was that the commander could easily raise the money from jueteng."

Two administration lawmakers yesterday called for a moratorium on "mudslinging" in the wake of Teves' allegations, especially after De Venecia promised an investigation.

"We appeal to those who have accused our colleagues to cooperate and provide evidence to support their allegations instead of ventilating their complaints in the media," Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan said in a statement.

"Whether the probe is done by the House or another body is immaterial as long we can resolve immediately the extortion issue," said Isabela Rep. Rodito Albano III.

"We are confident that members of the House contingent to the CA can ably defend themselves and prove their innocence. On the part of the accusers, they should take advantage of the probe to prove their charges."

Military, MILF believe Bossi alive

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Although there is no proof yet, government authorities and Muslim rebel officials are confident that kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi is still alive.

Maj. Gen. Nehemias Pajarito, 1st Infantry Division commander, said Bossi was still alive despite the absence of any proof.

"He is alive and we are intensifying all our efforts pouring all our resources to get him alive," Pajarito said.

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), on the other hand, said the kidnappers would not harm their captive as "Bossi is their only hope (for whatever intention they may have) and that will keep them alive, too."

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, police chief for Western Mindanao, has offered a cash reward to anybody who can provide information that would lead to the rescue of the priest.

Senior Supt. Francisco Cristobal, police chief of Zamboanga Sibugay, said they would give P100,000 to any informant who could provide the exact location of the abductors and their captive.

"The reward has been offered since last week," Caringal said.

The Italian government has also offered a similar reward.

Italian Ambassador Rubens Anna Fedele said "economic packages would be given to the barangay" that will help locate Bossi. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

PRESIDENT Arroyo answers questions during the open forum at the opening of the World Economic Forum in Singapore. From left are Kim Byong-Joon, chair of the Presidential Commission on Policy Planning, Republic of Korea, and George Yeo Yong-Boon, minister for foreign affairs, Singapore.

PCPO MALACAÑANG

GMA in Singapore cites reasons for RP progress

A DAY AFTER PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed before Asian and world business leaders in Singapore that "our economic growth is a work in progress," she attributed this to an unpopular but decisive tax reform package that was rammed through by the leadership of House of Representatives.

At a dinner on the eve of the two-day World Economic Forum, Ms Arroyo said the reform legislation topped by the expanded Value-Added Tax (VAT) enabled the Philippines to begin rebuilding its human and physical infrastructure to make it a global and regional competitor.

The government was now investing in basic education, public health care and mass housing to enhance its human infrastructure and was building a network of roads, bridges, air and sea ports and irrigation badly needed by surging foreign investment and global tourism, she said.

At the same time, in the area of peace, she lauded the proposal for an antiterrorism coalition that Speaker Jose de Venecia had submitted to her Cabinet immediately after the 9/11 terror attacks in the United States.

The antiterror coalition eventually became a Philippine initiative that brought together Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines in a common fight against global and regional terrorism. The coalition was later expanded to include Thailand, Cambodia and Australia.

The President said De Venecia's proposal would formally link the Association of Southeast Asian Nation's antiterror coalition with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization or the Shanghai Six composed of China, Russia and the four Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

De Venecia had said a cooperation agreement between Asean and the Shanghai Six would help deter the flow of terrorists from Central Asia to Southeast Asia and vice versa and enable countries in both regional blocs to deal more effectively with religious extremists.

At the dinner where Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo also spoke, De Venecia said Asia "need not make a choice between China and the United States."

He said the US and China "can live side by side, and both countries need each other's market" much the same way that Japan and the US did decades ago in East Asia's first wave of growth after World War II.

Law on breast-feeding urged

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TO FURTHER PROMOTE BREAST-FEEDING, Dr. Gloria Ramirez of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) yesterday urged the new Congress to pass a law requiring all companies to allot work breaks and stations where mothers could collect their milk, store it, then bring it home or donate it to a milk bank.

She said all a company would need is a sink for washing hands, a refrigerator for storage and a private room where mothers could collect their milk. Mothers should be allowed to collect milk at least three times in a working day, she added.

To encourage companies to pay for the 20-minute breaks, they should be entitled to tax breaks depending on the number of lactating mothers working for them, said Ramirez.

She is also pushing for the integration of breast-feeding in the school curricula.

"Unless we educate our women, we cannot easily fight big infant formula companies, with all their lawyers and celebrity endorsers. Mothers will be easily confused," said Ramirez, who heads the PCMC breast-feeding committee and helps maintain a breast milk bank for babies at its neonatal intensive care unit.

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Gore presents award for RP water pump

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A WATER PUMP PIONEERED in Negros Occidental that has brought clean water to 68 remote mountainside villages in the country won for a local foundation second place in an international green energy tilt in London Thursday.

Former US Vice President Al Gore presented an Ashden Award for Sustainable Energy, which comes with a 10,000-pound cash prize, to the Alternative indigenous Development Foundation Inc. (Aidfi) based in Barangay Mansilangan here.

The group was one of 10 renewable energy pioneers from across the globe that were shortlisted for the Ashden awards. Ceremonies were held at the Royal Geographical Society in London on June 21.

First place went to the Practical Action group in Peru which installed micro-hydro plants to bring electricity to about 30,000 people in remote villages. Third place went to Nepal's Centre for Rural Technology which upgraded traditional water mills so villagers could use them to grind grain into flour.

"Even if we did not win first place, the recognition we got has given a big boost to our work," said Aladino Moraca, Aidfi executive director.

Moraca said they would use the prize money to replicate the river-powered pump in more communities.

Ram pump technology, which harnesses the power of running water to lift water vertically, was developed 300 years ago but Aidfi has enhanced the technology using cheap and locally available materials such as door hinges to transfer water up 200 meters at practically no cost.

"Our installations have no operation cost since they have no need for electricity or fuel; they work on a 24-hour basis and parts replacement is cheap," he said, adding that the pumps could last up to 20 years.

Aidfi has solved the cost and maintenance problems that made many previous water projects in upland villages unsustainable.

Moraca said Auke Idzenga, who represented Aidfi at the awards in London, had been meeting with many people interested in the cheap eco-friendly technology.

Aidfi was founded in 1991 by Leonidas Baterna, a committed Negrense union organizer, Idzenga and several development workers to develop technology systems that could exist in harmony with nature and provide sustainable development for the poor, Moraca said.

It was registered as an NGO in 1992 and now employs 21 people.

Aside from ram pumps, Aidfi has been working to provide poor communities with micro-hydro plants for battery charging, biogas plants, hand and foot pumps, solar water heating and micro wind power.

"This (award) is great because when we started it was like shouting in the desert when we talked about ram pumps using renewable energy," Moraca said.

"When we first introduced our ram pumps, people could not believe that the technology worked until they saw it in the villages they had been installed in," he said.

In Barangay Maquiling, Sagay City, the village used to pay for the running of an electricity-driven pump to bring water to homes from a distant spring.

Today with their ram pump they do not have to pay for electricity to bring 11,000 liters of drinking water a day to 120 households, he said.

Moraca said the pumps had also been introduced to training centers in Japan and Malaysia, and to a refugee camp in Thailand.

Now, with the international recognition given to Aidfi, "we hope it will spur more local governments and groups to use our green technology to help more rural villages," he said.

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COMANECI, scorer of the Olympics' first-ever gymnastics perfect "10," walks through Naia.

Nadia Comaneci arrives to deliver inspirational talk

By DJ Yap

NADIA COMANECI, THE FIRST GYMNAST to score a perfect "10" in the Olympics and one of the most celebrated female athletes of all time, arrived in the Philippines for the first time last night.

Comaneci is in town to give a motivational talk, together with celebrated Filipino bowler Paeng Nepomuceno, to employees of P&G Philippines.

Clad in a black-and-white floral dress and wearing hoop earrings, Comaneci arrived aboard Cathay Pacific flight 903 and was greeted by P&G Philippines president and general manager James Lafferty, who had invited the sports star.

"I love these," she said of the sampaguita garland Lafferty and P&G officials placed around her neck in welcome.

In a preview of her inspirational talk, Comaneci encouraged Filipino children and their parents to take up gymnastics. She said Asians, Filipinos in particular, had the potential to be great.

"As long as you work hard, anything is possible," she said. "When I started, I had no idea it would be this big, and people would consider me the greatest," she told reporters.

But Comaneci, who at 45 still cuts a striking figure, said the Philippines had a distinct advantage when it came to gymnastics, a sport that features lithe and agile bodies: "The Philippines is known for pretty girls, isn't it?"

At the age of 14, Comaneci stunned the world when her routine on the uneven bars at the 1976 Montreal Olympics earned her a perfect score, the first ever in Olympic gymnastics history.

She went on to score six more perfect "10s" on the way to winning the all-around, beams and bars titles.

As a result of her exploits, Comaneci became the face of the Montreal Olympics, appearing on the cover of Time, Newsweek and Sports Illustrated magazines all in the same week, and inspiring countless girls to take up the sport.

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Cops link actor's wife to Pasig drug mart

By Kristine L. Alave

FATIMA DAVAO, THE WIFE OF ACtor Bing Davao, had links to suspected Pasig City shabu market operator Amin Imam Boratong, an officer of the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force said yesterday.

AIDSOTF lawyer Roque Merdegia said Fatima had been on the police watch-list because of her connections to Boratong and his wife Mimie.

Boratong was the alleged owner of a compound in Pasig City that housed 30 to 40 shabu dens which were raided by police in February 2006.

Boratong is now detained at the National Bureau of Investigation pending trial on drug charges, while Mimie is at large, although there is a pending arrest warrant against her for the murder of informant German Colisao.

Merdegia said Fatima was involved in Boratong's "sales" network and had been on the police list for five years.

AIDSOTF is currently conducting a further background check on the couple, particularly Fatima, he said.

The Davao couple was arrested, along with two others, while allegedly engaged in a shabu session in an apartment in Maharlika Village, Taguig City, that police raided on Friday night. Three plastic sachets of suspected shabu were found in Fatima's possession.

Taguig City police also arrested PO1 Abdulpatta Tula, 28, who was assigned to PCP-2 of the Taguig City police, and Hasbi Muco, 39, a former policeman.

Insp. Ariel Bait, intelligence chief of the Taguig police, said that Fatima was involved in the drug trade.

"Verified *talaga yang si* Fatima *na humahawak ng* shabu (It's been verified that Fatima deals in shabu)," Bait said in a text message to the INQUIRER, adding that the suspect had been under surveillance for six months.

He added, however, the police had not verified Fatima's links to the Boratong network as Taguig's drug enforcement unit was still probing the couple's activities.

Davao, the older brother of actor Ricky Davao and a son of actor Charlie Davao, refused to make any comment after his arrest.

The actor and his wife are detained at the Taguig police station.

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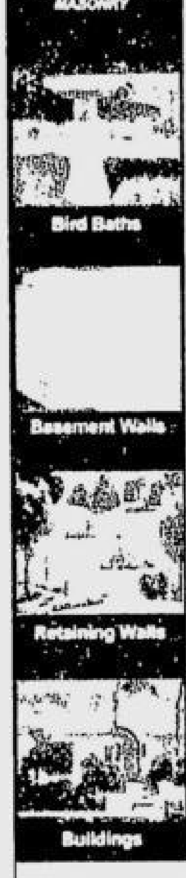

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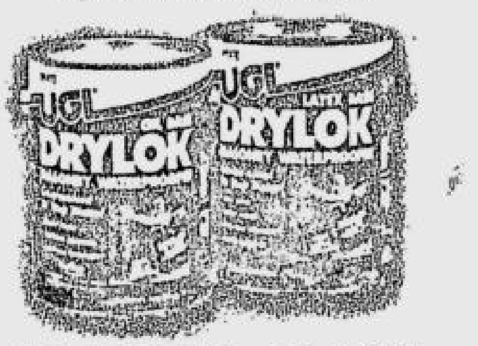

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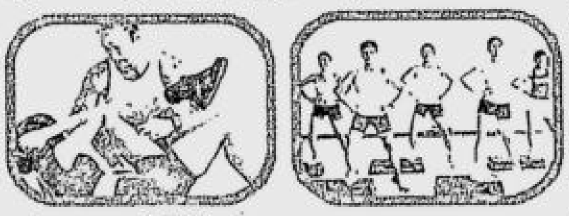

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Palace, Left welcome summit on political slays

From page A1

from legislative inquiries without her consent.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon had indicated he planned to invoke the controversial EO should he and other military officers be summoned by Senator-elect Antonio Trillanes IV to shed light on the unresolved killings under the Arroyo administration.

Presidential chief legal counsel Sergio Apostol told reporters: "We're willing to sit down with them and discuss what could be changed and what could not be changed."

'Don't touch it'

In a dinner with INQUIRER editors on Thursday, Puno said the high court would welcome the opportunity to "tighten gray areas" in its 2006 decision upholding portions of EO 464.

But Apostol stressed that EO 464's main provision demanding prior consultation with Ms Arroyo on any congressional appearances was non-negotiable.

"This should not be touched. This has already been declared constitutional by the Supreme Court," he said.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach defense and military officials to get their reactions.

Gonzalez sounded receptive to the idea of a summit to help prevent political killings, saying it could lead to the speeding up of court processes.

A 2-bladed sword

But he also said that reviewing the concept of "command responsibility," one of the possible topics in the proposed summit, could be a "double-edged sword," and asked if it would lead to the Supreme Court itself being held liable for judges' errors.

The justice secretary said he was willing to attend and air his views in the summit to discuss how the high court could use its expanded powers under the Constitution to protect civil liberties.

"If he'll propose rules of court to speed up the processes, that would be OK as long as it's not at the sacrifice of due process," Gonzalez said.

Asked whether he thought the high court might encroach on the powers of the legislature, he said he would have to first see the parameters of Puno's suggestions.

He said he wanted to believe the Chief Justice was acting in good faith in proposing such a summit.

Ticklish issue

"Let us assume the Chief Justice is acting in good faith, that what he wants is to help simplify methods so that long-dragged out processes would be addressed," he said, adding that he was not against reforms.

As for revisiting the idea of "command responsibility,". Gonzalez agreed that it would be a "ticklish" matter.

"There are laws on command responsibility. Will it mean that the mistake of a judge is also the fault of the Chief Justice? You're talking here of command responsibility. Will it go that far? It could be a double-edged sword," he said.

Gonzalez also said the court's power to cite people in contempt should have limits. But he added that he did not think Puno would allow judges or justices to abuse such a power.

In discussing the new rules that the high tribunal could promulgate, Puno floated the idea of imposing sanctions, like being cited in contempt, on officials who fail to follow standards in handling cases of forced disappearances.

World outrage

Puno has condemned the extrajudicial killings, describing them as "the ultimate violation of human rights."

The human rights group Karapatan has tallied at least 863 cases of political killings since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001. The INQUIRER tally, which only includes identified militants, stands at 297.

The killings have whipped up international outrage, even from some of Ms Arroyo's close foreign allies.

Puno said the killings were an "assault on the rule of law" and an "indictment of the judicial system."

An official of the militant farmers' group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas described Puno's summit plan as "unprecedented."

"We will support it as long as we get the assurance that everything will be done to stop the killings and abductions done by state forces against the people," said KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos in a statement on Sunday.

A time bomb

In calling for a summit focusing on violations of civil liberties, Ramos said the Puno-led Supreme Court was "taking the bull by the horns."

"[It is] facing the problem head on, unlike Malacañang, which keeps skirting the issue and blaming the victims," he said.

Ramos hoped the summit would elaborate on mechanisms "to enhance the civil liberties of the people and curtail the repressive powers of the state, especially now that [the antiterror law] is about to be implemented next month."

He compared the civil rights situation in the country to a "ticking time bomb."

In an effort to stop the killings of militant farmers, Ramos said the KMP would host international fact-finding missions of the Asian Peasant Coalition starting July 5.

The missions will look into situations in disputed estates in Southern Tagalog, Central Luzon and Cagayan Valley, he said.

Ping, Joker

Senators were divided on some aspects of the Puno proposal.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he was in favor of the high court reassessing EO 464 "so that it would leave no room for Malacañang and Esperon's self-serving interpretations."

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the EO 464 case should not be brought up to the high court again because it "does not look good having the Supreme Court come in between whenever Malacañang and the Senate have a fight."

Interviewed on dzBB radio, Arroyo said Malacañang and the Senate should hold "conferences" to patch out their differences to avoid raising their disagreements to the high court.

"Even disputes between private persons can be resolved without going to court through discussions. Malacañang and the Senate should set an example to the public," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila, and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Corrections

IN THE MAY 29 ISSUE, an article on Page A4—"RP way behind with regard to women's rights, UN says"—omitted one of the funding donors of the United Nations Joint Program to Facilitate the Implementation of CEDAW (UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) Concluding Comments. Omitted from the list of donors was UN Habitat.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 23 ISSUE, a Metro story on Page A20—"Mabini now 'sits' on street named after him"—erroneously described Apolinario Mabini as the "Brains of the Katipunan." Historians refer to Emilio Jacinto as the "Brains of the Katipunan" and Mabini as the "Brains of the Revolution."

* * *

IN THE JUNE 24 issue, a photo caption on Page A8 misspelled the surname of the president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Her name is Sandy Prieto-Romualdez—not Romauldez.

* * *

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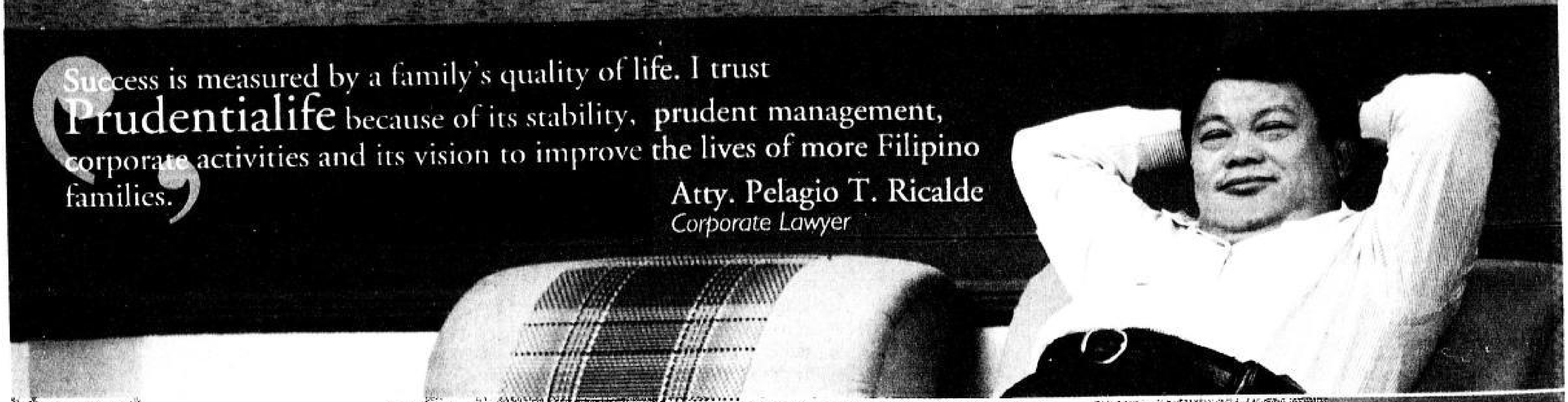

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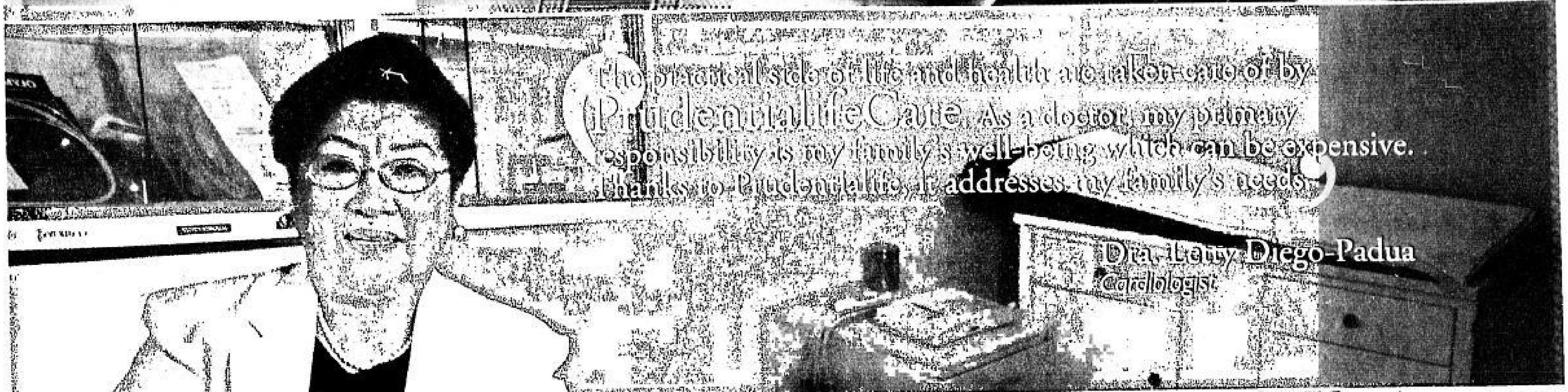

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Abra mayor's wife dies one month after shooting

BAGUIO CITY—THE WIFE OF MAYOR EDWIN Crisologo of Tineg, Abra, died on Sunday, more than a month after she was shot and wounded while observing the canvassing of votes for Tineg, the family's lawyer said.

Brenda Cardenas-Crisologo, 47, died at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, said lawyer Estelita Cordero.

Cordero said Crisologo suffered bullet wounds in the abdomen and shoulder after Totoy Buyao, said to be a poll watcher of a political rival of her husband, shot her in the Holy Spirit Academy in Bangued on May 17 during the canvassing of votes.

Buyao was shot dead by soldiers and policemen after the attack.

"[Brenda] was actually fine this morning (Sunday) and was talking with some people in her hospital room when she suddenly expired," said Cordero.

The mayoral race in Tineg between Edwin Crisologo and Lenin Benwaren has yet to be decided. "We hope they can act on it, hopefully before June 30," said Cordero.

Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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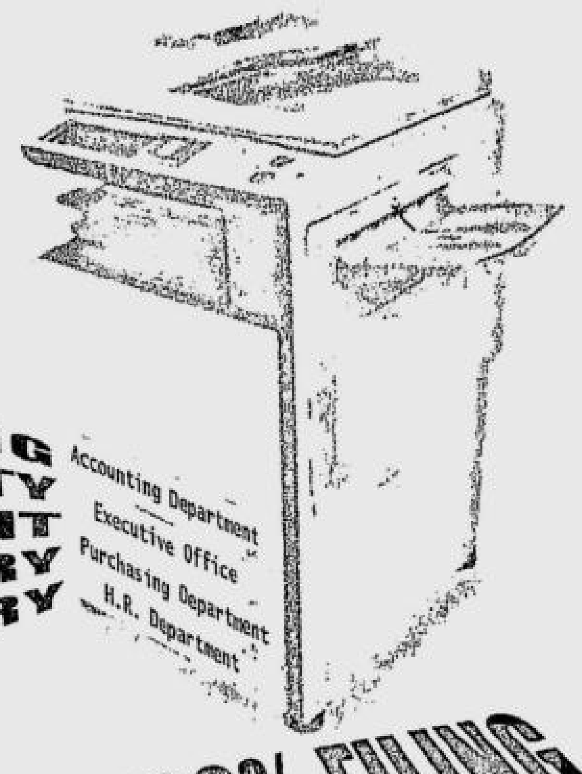

Tetangco: Peso stable but BSP ready in case of sharp moves

BASEL, SWITZERLAND—THE PHILIPPINE peso's value should be determined by markets but the central bank stands ready to act if there are sharp moves, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco said here on Saturday.

Speaking to Reuters, Tetangco also said the rise in global yields had not affected emerging market economies in Asia and inflation in the Philippines was likely to remain low, cautioning that market interest rates should not rise too much.

The peso rose to a six-and-a-half year high against the US dollar earlier this month, buoyed by strong inflows into the local market.

"FX [foreign exchange] is a market-determined rate and it's consistent with the policy of the BSP with some scope for BSP action to smooth out moves. If there are sharp moves in the rate (we will intervene) to reduce volatility," Tetangco said.

"In relative terms, the competitiveness of the peso hasn't changed so much," he said.

Ten-year benchmark yields in the United States and the euro zone reached 5-year peaks this month, driven by expectations for stronger growth.

"This increase in yields in the developed countries, particularly the US, has led to some increase in yields of emerging economies. But the impact has not been that big as far as Asia is concerned," Tetangco said.

"(The) credit and growth story is still intact. We haven't seen a significant widening of (credit default swaps) for example. Equity prices have resumed the uptrend. The market is saying growth in emerging economies in Asia is likely to continue and inflation will most likely remain favorable," he said.

On global interest rates, Tetangco said, "It's better to have early, relatively small adjustments (in interest rates) and it's started now," adding that he did not expect major sharp adjustments.

The Philippine economy enjoyed its highest annual growth in 17 years in the first quarter, thanks to healthy consumption and an expansion in back-office [outsourcing] services.

Philippine consumer prices rose 2.4 percent in May from a year earlier, in the middle of the central bank's projection of 2.1 to 2.8 percent. *Reuters*

Fortune can sue Chato, SC rules

FORTUNE TOBACCO CORP. CAN SUE FORMER Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato for damages over her directive that imposed higher taxes on the firm's three cigarette products, according to the Supreme Court.

The high tribunal directed the Marikina Regional Trial Court to continue with the case against Chato.

It said Fortune Tobacco's suit alleging that Chato violated its constitutional right against being deprived of its property without due process could continue even without any claim of bad faith against her.

Fortune Tobacco sued Chato for damages after the Court of Tax Appeals invalidated her memorandum circular reclassifying Hope, Champion and More cigarettes as locally manufactured cigarettes bearing foreign brands, thus raising to 55 percent the tax imposed on them.

Prior to the issuance of the circular, Hope, Champion and More were considered local brands subject to only 20 to 45 percent tax.

After the CTA ruled against Chato, Fortune Tobacco filed a complaint for damages against her before the Marikina RTC.

Chato moved to have the case dismissed, but she was turned down by the Marikina RTC, and later by the Court of Appeals. Chato then elevated the matter to the Supreme Court, which ruled against her as well. *Leila B. Salaverria*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 25, 2007
12 Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 12:1-9
Gospel: Matthew 7:1-5

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not judge and you will not be judged. In the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and the measure you use for others will be used for you. Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and not see the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother: 'Come, let me take the speck from your eye,' as long as that plank is in your own? Hypocrite, take first the plank out of your own eye, then you will see clear enough to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Commentary

Back to Genesis and our beginnings as a people who believe and belong to Yahweh/God. Abram is sent forth to another land with the blessings of God. But he moves slowly and picks up a lot along the way: possessions, slaves. In Abram's worship and moments of prayer, God gives him promises as he goes on with his journey.

Jesus tells us how to live day to day with the people around us: not to judge others or what we lay as verdict on them, will be our own. As we treat others, we will be treated. We are all one in the Lord. If we are so quick to see what is evil in others, what about the huge injustices, sin, evil, and violence we do ourselves? If we are constantly intent on seeing evil in others, can we even begin to see the goodness of God anywhere? It is time we looked to ourselves, in the Church and in the world.

Gov't mulls VAT on expressway toll

By Michelle V. Remo

AS THE GOVERNMENT STRUGGLES TO COVER shortfalls in tax collection, the Department of Finance said it was looking at imposing the 12-percent expanded value-added tax (VAT) on income from toll road collections.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said the government would generate an estimated P1 billion in additional taxes annually by imposing the VAT on toll revenues from the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX).

He said other toll roads that may be subjected to the VAT are the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway and the Manila-Cavite tollway.

Beltran said there should be no legal hindrance to subjecting toll revenues to the VAT, explaining that there was no provision in the VAT law exempting it from the tax.

The Comprehensive Tax Reform Law that took effect in the late 1990s enumerated a list products and services to be subjected to the VAT. In November 2005, the Reformed VAT Law expanded the coverage of the tax to include services rendered by lawyers and doctors and electricity, among other things.

The law did not explicitly say if toll services would be covered by the VAT, Beltran said. But he also said that neither did the law explicitly say toll services were exempt from the tax.

He said that without a law explicitly saying that a product or a service was exempt from a tax, then it could be subjected to tax.

Asked whether tollway operators would be allowed to pass on the VAT to motorists, Beltran said it was the nature of the VAT to be passed on to end-consumers.

In the first five months of the year, tax collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue reached only P285.587 billion, or P28.6-billion short of its P314.208 billion target for the period.

For the full-year, the BIR's tax collection target was set at P765 billion, consistent with the government's goal of trimming its budget deficit to P63 billion from last year's P64.8 billion.

The DOF said the BIR should implement measures to shore up revenue collection.

The government is hard-pressed to meet its deficit target this year and its aim of a balanced budget by next year, having made these commitments to the public, investors and foreign creditors.

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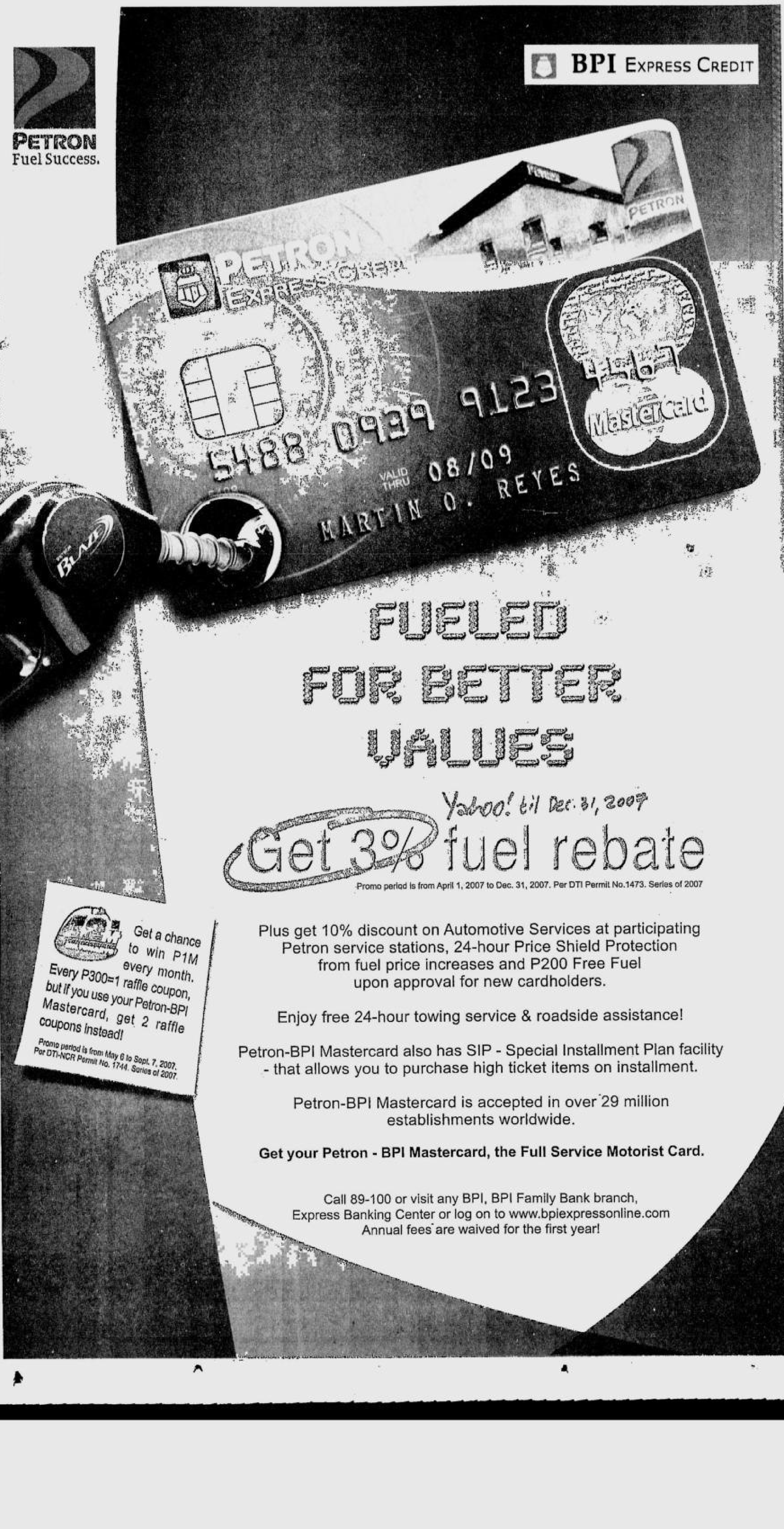

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UP gets Clark site

CLARK FREEPORT—The state-owned Clark Development Corp. has finally turned over 3.28 hectares for the campus of the University of the Philippines Extension Program in San Fernando (UPSF) here.

The last Congress had also allotted P50 million for the "university town" the UPSF plans to build at Clark, UP president Emerlinda Roman said in a program held after the groundbreaking rites on Friday.

The site is behind the Puregold Duty Free store along the C. M. Recto Avenue.

The university town will serve as the "intellectual capital for the development of Central Luzon," said UPSF director Juliet Mallari, who Roman acknowledged led the 12-year campaign for a permanent campus here.

Roman said the land grant by the CDC ended the long search for a new site since the UPSF lost its campus to Mt. Pinatubo's lahar in October 1995. The UPSF moved to various locations at least thrice since it was established in 1979. Since 1998, it has been using a former warehouse at Clark.

UPSF offers undergraduate courses in business management, economics and psychology. Its graduate programs are in business and public and educational management. It has more than 800 students this semester. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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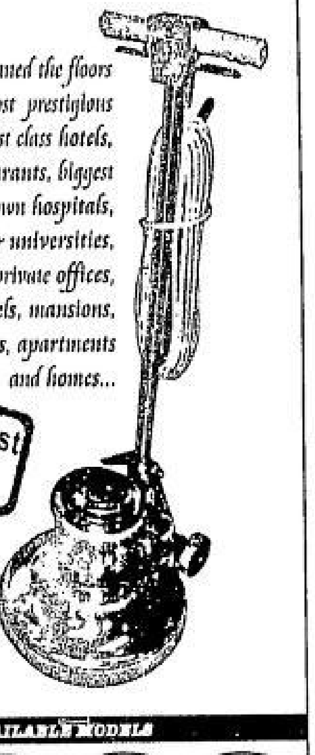

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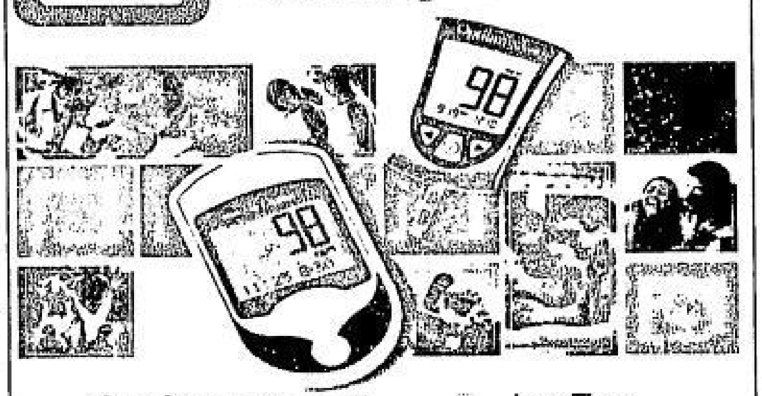

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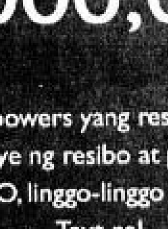

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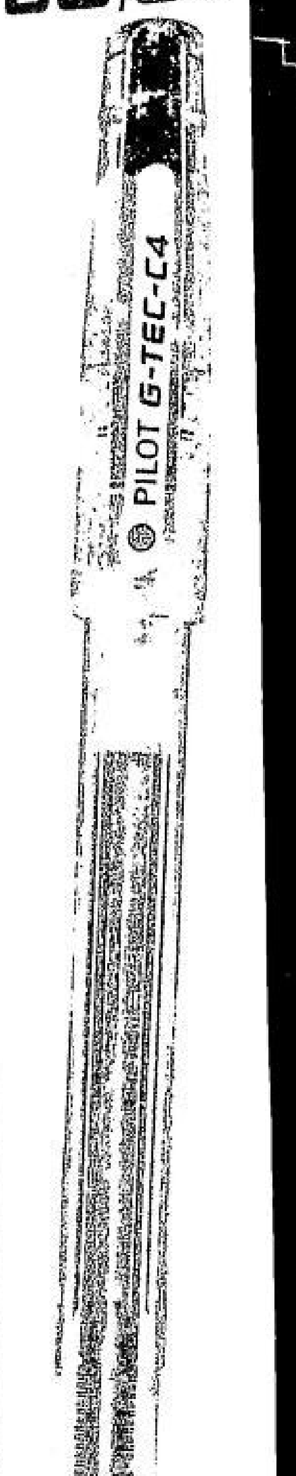

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Migz: I can take defeat, but how about Koko?

From page A1

and beat Pimentel should come as no surprise to anybody, according to Zubiri.

"In the surveys and exit polls, I was No. 2 in Mindanao. I beat him three to one in the last special elections where the vote was under close scrutiny by all the watchdogs ... I even beat him in his hometown of Cagayan de Oro, so how come he can't believe that I can win in the elections without cheating?"

Both TU and GO agreed the winner of the 12th Senate slot would depend on whether the Maguindanao votes would be counted or not.

Zubiri claimed he'd win by 25,000 votes if the Maguindanao votes were tallied, while he would be behind by 80,000 votes if Pimentel succeeded in getting the Supreme Court to junk the Maguindanao results.

Zubiri wants proof

But Zubiri said he would still win if a new election was held in Maguindanao, assuming the present Maguindanao certificates of canvass, or vote tallies, were nullified.

Zubiri said that Pimentel had yet to come up with solid proof that the Maguindanao votes were tampered with, aside from the "sources" that the opposition had been quoting.

He said it was easy to get "emotional" in this situation but what was more important was sticking to the facts.

"I really resent what they have been accusing me of. If I lose, I'll accept my fate even though it would be hard considering that I'd be losing by just thousands, which would mean I could have done better had I campaigned harder in Luzon and not focused so much on the Visayas and Mindanao.

Plea for ceasefire

"But I'm asking him to do the same—let the Comelec (Commission on Elections) and the Supreme Court do their work and both of us should just keep quiet. There is a time for protest or even reopening the ballot boxes.

"Let's stop the mudslinging," he said. "All I'm asking of the public is to keep an open mind. Let us not judge people until we have proof to back our charges."

Pimentel has filed a petition with the Supreme Court to stop the canvassing.

Bedol out of picture

The "missing" Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol is already out of the picture as far as the tabulation of municipal CoCs is concerned, GO lawyer Sixto Brillantes said.

The canvassing is scheduled for today in the Maguindanao capital of Shariff Aguak. Bedol is at the center of a controversy focused on allegations that the Maguindanao CoC was manufactured to deliver a 12-0 win for administration candidates.

Brillantes said Bedol's presence was no longer needed at today's canvassing of votes because it would be conducted by a special board of canvassers which the Commission on Elections, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC), created.

The NBC has set aside the CoC which Bedol prepared after the May 14 elections, ruling that it was "statistically improbable" for 19 candidates to get zero votes in the province.

Ampatuan bailiwick

Brillantes claimed the canvassing today had already been manipulated.

"*Sa tingin ko, luto na lahat* (I think all of it has been 'pre-cooked'). But we will put everything on record," he told the INQUIRER.

Last week, the Comelec ordered that the tabulation be held in the provincial capitol of Maguindanao—a bailiwick of the powerful Ampatuan political clan which is backing the Arroyo administration—after it affirmed that the municipal vote tallies presented by election officers to a Comelec fact-finding mission were genuine and authentic.

Despite objecting to the decision, Brillantes and another GO lawyer, Leila de Lima, have decided to observe the canvassing.

De Lima earlier said that holding the canvass in Shariff Aguak was a way of making sure that the chairs of the various municipal boards of canvassers, whom GO lawyers intended to grill, would not be able to talk freely.

An unofficial tally shown to reporters has Pimentel leading Zubiri by 111,561 votes, without the Maguindanao results.

A mere rumor

If Pimentel fails to get a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court, Brillantes said he would fight it out with the NBC when it reconvenes this week to tabulate the provincial tally.

"I can assure you something will happen in the NBC which they will all regret for a long, long time," he said ominously.

An opposition mayoral candidate in Cotabató City, who lost in the elections, claimed she had information that Bedol burned all the original copies of the election returns so there would be no evidence of vote fraud.

"It was relayed to me from Manila that Bedol already burned all the documents after he panicked," defeated candidate Estrellita Juliano told the INQUIRER. She gave no proof to back up her allegation, however.

A GO lawyer said the allegation was mere "*tsismis*" (gossip).

With a report from Jeffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

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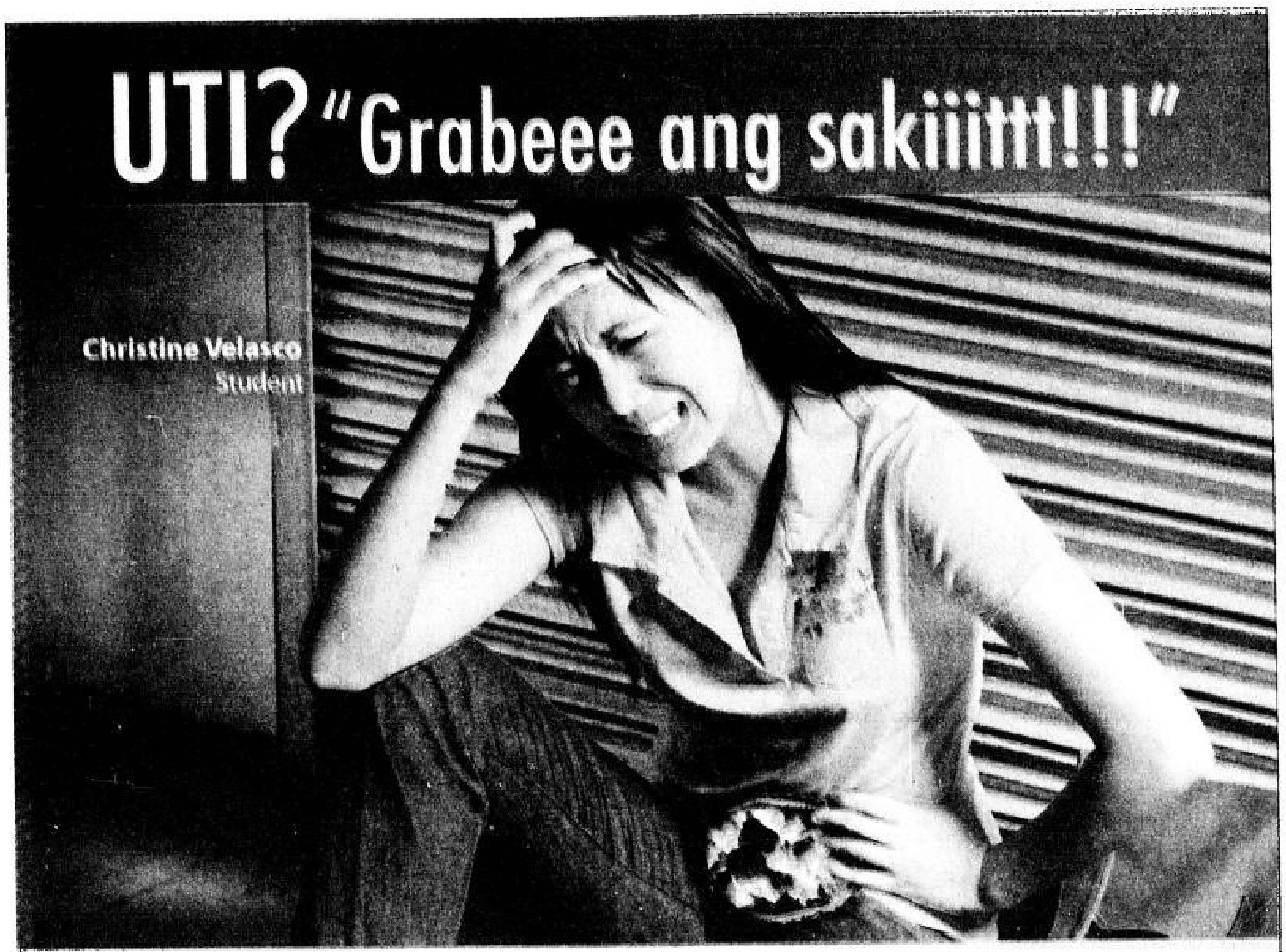

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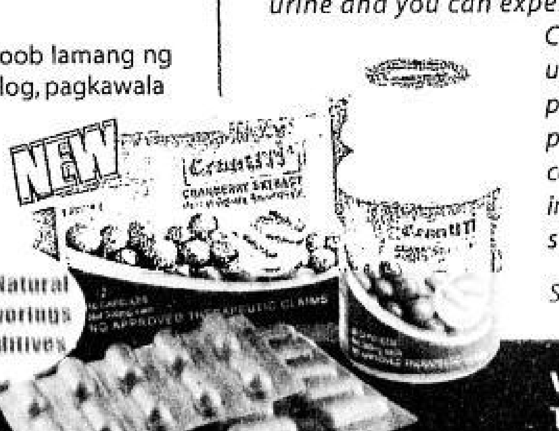

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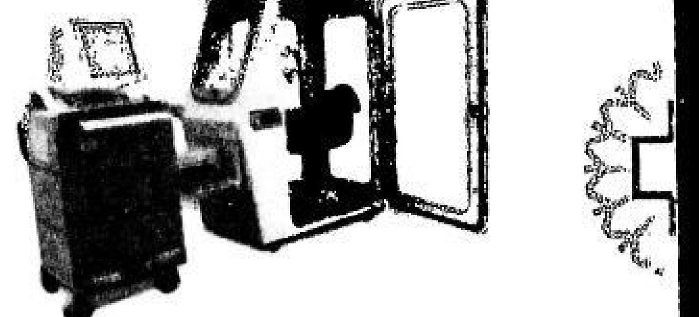

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Medical team hits military harassment in Kalinga

By Alcuin Papa, *Manila,*
and Desiree Caluza, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

A MILITANT HEALTH GROUP HAS CONdemned the harassment of health personnel by members of the military on June 16 and 17 in Kalinga province.

In a statement over the weekend, the Health Alliance for Democracy (Head), a nationwide organization of health professionals, health workers and students, said it received a report of health personnel in Kalinga being questioned and harassed by soldiers of the 21st and 77th Infantry Battalions of the Philippine Army while conducting a clinic in Sitio Ubel, Barangay Gawaan, Balbalan, Kalinga.

The four-member health team was led by a doctor and a nurse working for Community Health Education, Services and Training in the Cordillera Region (Chestcore), a community-based health program in the Cordillera region.

They were attending to indigent patients when the harassment happened, Head said.

"The continuing intervention of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in medical missions and community clinics directly contravenes the provision of much needed health services to the poor," said Dr. Gene Alzona Nisperos, Head secretary general.

Chilling effect

"The harassment sends a chilling effect to the health sector amid the unabated exodus of health workers," he said.

Members of the mission also assailed the military for accusing them of being members of the New People's Army.

Dr. Ana Marie Leung, Chestcore executive director, said despite Balbalan Mayor Allan Jesse Mangaoang's approval of their medical mission, the soldiers questioned the team about their activities, took their pictures and accused them of being communist rebels.

Exaggeration

Maj. Ferdinand Razalan, spokesperson of the AFP's Northern Luzon Command based in Tarlac, urged the group to file a complaint so the incident could be investigated.

Razalan said Chestcore's allegations might have been "exaggerated."

He said some soldiers were accused of committing human rights violations in Balbalan in the past and some left-leaning groups could be using these previous incidents to hit at the military.

"Leftists will not stop from discrediting the military," he said.

Leung said that on June 16, soldiers surrounded the multipurpose hall at Sitio Ubel where the medical team, which included a local guide and a biologist, were attending to patients.

"The soldiers even stayed until lunch to watch the staff eat. While they were eating, the soldiers took their photographs," Leung said.

She said the soldiers, led by a Corporal Raton, insisted on getting the Chestcore staff's names and questioned them on their presence in the area.

Covered nameplates

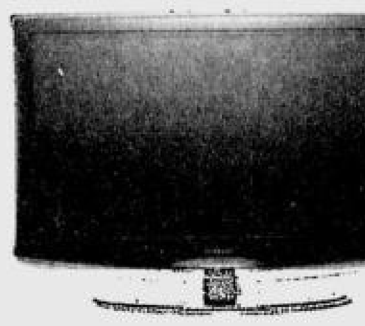
Leung said the soldiers did not identify themselves and covered their nameplates.

She said the soldiers later called a community meeting in Sitio Pipi, also in Barangay Gawaan, where they claimed that a group of NPA rebels had held a meeting in Sitio Ubel and that four rebels were still in the area.

Chestcore members said the incident last week was not the first time the military had harassed the group.

In April 2005, they said soldiers surrounded the Gawaan barangay hall while health workers were attending a seminar.

In August 2006, Leung said Mangaoang told her to get the 21st IB's permission before a Chestcore team could check on the health of Balbalan's small-scale miners.



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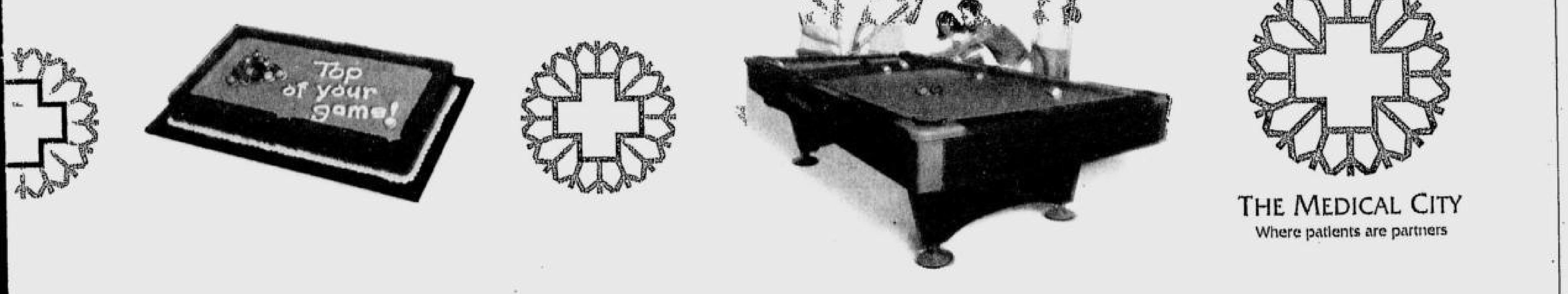

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•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
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'Puno't dulo'

EDITORIAL

TWO MONTHS AGO, IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "Into the breach," we called attention to an emerging trend in Philippine politics: the vacuum of leadership at the highest national levels, we said, was drawing even non-political leaders like Chief Justice Reynato Puno into the widening chasm.

"The gulf is so great that once firmly non-political figures like the Chief Justice must now provide leadership or see the perpetuation of the self-destructive indifference of the executive and legislative branches to the rule of law."

The immediate occasion of Puno's act of leadership was his warning that the US-led war on terror, in which the Philippines hosts a theater of operation in the so-called second front, was undermining civil liberties and, by extension, the very democracy it was supposed to protect.

Ten months ago, in an editorial entitled "Scary," we also called attention to the breathtaking cynicism which, in our view, informed the Arroyo administration's strategy for surviving its crisis of legitimacy. We wrote then: "perhaps the administration strategy [in legal cases] is not an outright win, but ... 'only' a 'win-win' decision. That would allow the administration—fully aware of the Senate's reluctance to go to war, totally cognizant of the Supreme Court's slow, collegial decision-making—to proceed as planned."

In other words, the Executive's **political** strategy was to use the **legal** process to buy time, precisely because of the deliberative nature of judicial decision-making. In a regime that has made a fetish of the principle of the presumption of regularity, time was truly gold.

The net effect of these new realities, however, has been a continuing erosion in the effectiveness of the rule of law. As a close look at the results of the mid-term elections reveals, the Arroyo administration's credibility deficit has continued to widen. And as the prospect of new legislative investigations into the scandals of 2004 and 2005 looms even closer, the administration's strategy has continued to foster both cynicism and confusion.

It is in this context, therefore, that Chief Justice Puno's radically original idea of "enacting more rules" to protect civil liberties, especially in the wake of the continuing extrajudicial killings, should be understood.

The initiative—first raised on the sidelines of a Hong Kong conference three weeks ago, reiterated in a dinner with INQUIRER editors and reporters last week—does not mean that the Supreme Court under Puno, a career judge, has suddenly veered left. It does not mean that the high tribunal (and we do mean the entire court, not only the Chief Justice, because we have reason to believe that the idea was the product of a consensus) has become an activist court. And it certainly does not mean that the justices—all but three of whom were appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo—have joined the opposition.

If we understand the matter correctly, the new initiative only means that the Supreme Court has realized that the very rule of law is under attack, and that it must rise to its defense.

"We have been thinking about this because ... extrajudicial killings are an assault on the rule of law," Puno said. "It's an indictment of the judicial system, so we have to do something about it."

The initiative is based on a new power granted to the judiciary by the post-Marcos Constitution. "This is a new power given to the court under the 1987 Constitution," Puno said in Hong Kong. "We don't know how broad the power is. We don't know its parameters, but we are studying how we can further protect human rights by the exercise of this power."

The initiative's emphasis on human rights, therefore, is not driven by ideology, but by two engines of change: the high court's new power, and the plague of killings. The court's resolve to act decisively is not judicial activism, as this term is usually understood; it is the judiciary's necessary response to a grave threat. (Other legal experts, such as the English judge Patrick Devlin, have drawn a distinction between activism and dynamism.) And the initiative's potential to embarrass the Arroyo administration is not intentional, but the necessary byproduct of the process. In point of fact, Puno has emphasized his belief that the administration and the military hierarchy would welcome the new rules. That is why in the "summit" of problem-solvers he is calling next month, the first invitations go to Camp Aguinaldo and Malacañang.

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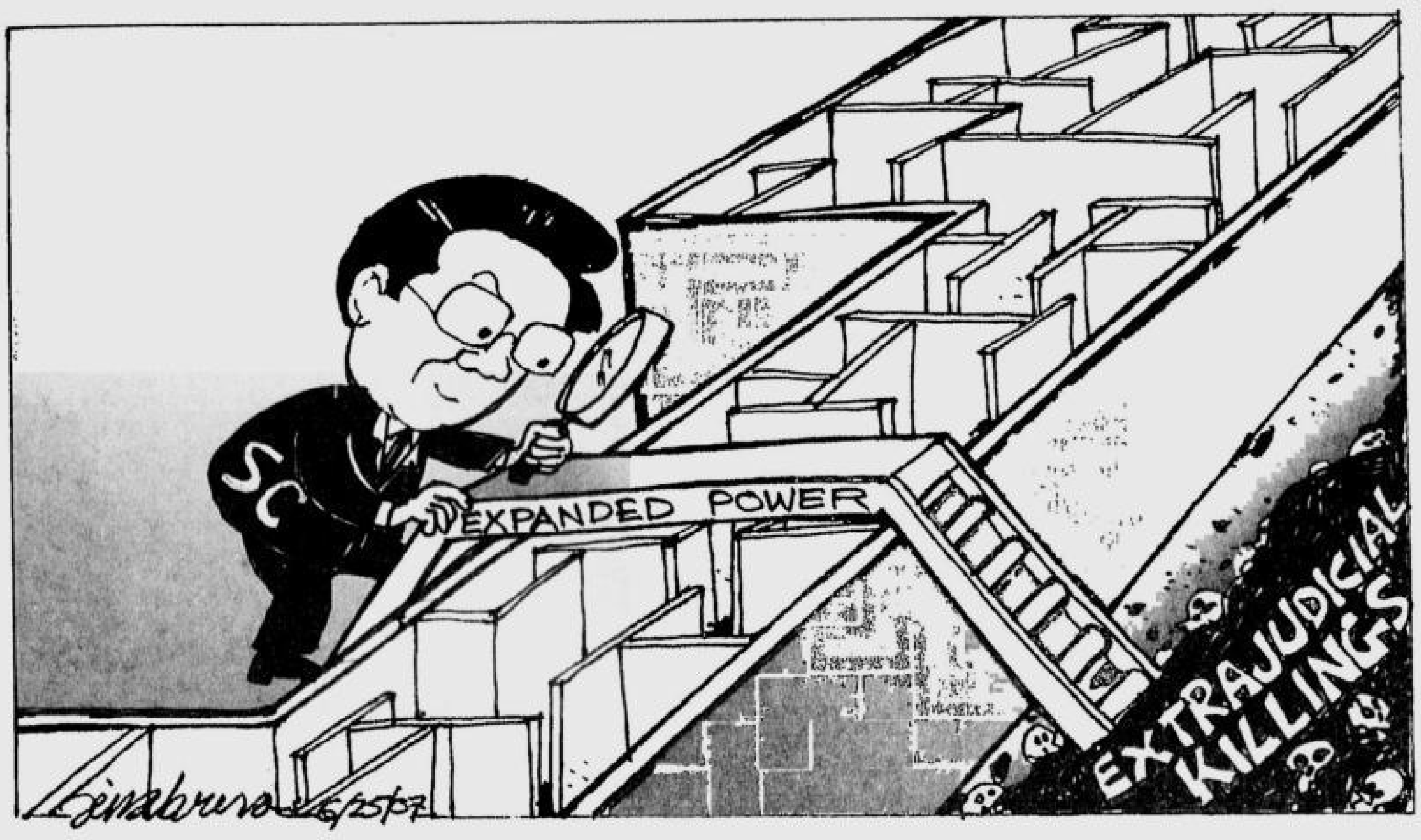

COA exposes anomalies at PLM

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ALL IS NOT WELL IN THE PAMANTASAN NG Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM). In fact, something smells very bad, and it starts from the very top: from the Office of the University President and the Board of Regents.

The Commission on Audit has uncovered indications of graft and corruption, illegal disbursements of funds, overspending, illegal contracts and other anomalies. Since last year, PLM President Emeritus Jose D. Villanueva has asked the Board of Regents to investigate these anomalies uncovered by the COA. But until now, the Regents have not done so. In fact, since September 2006, when Villanueva sent that letter to the Board, the Regents have not officially met to avoid starting any investigation, hinted Villanueva.

Last May 21, Mayor Lito Atienza ordered the Board of Regents to investigate the anomalies. The failure of the Regents to meet since September 2006 "started when the President Emeritus of the University, Dr. Jose D. Villanueva, formally requested the Board to conduct investigations on a number of anomalies in PLM," said Atienza. "This has given rise to the suspicion that the Board is not meeting to avoid conducting an investigation. Not to investigate the anomalies might be interpreted as condoning corruption in the University, considering that most, if not all, of these anomalies are based on COA findings contained in several Audit Observation Memorandums (AOM)."

Until now, no action from the Board of Regents. The City of Manila funds the PLM and the mayor appoints the university president and the members of the Board of Regents. Now that Sen. Alfredo Lim is going to replace Atienza as mayor, the ball is in his court. Faculty members say he should fire the university president, Dr. Benjamin G. Tayabas, and all the members of the Board of Regents.

The astonishing fact is that the anomalies have been going on for years, and the president emeritus and the faculty have been complaining about them, and yet no story about them has appeared in media—until now. It becomes even more astonishing when we consider that a number of working journalists are employed as professors in the university. Was there a news blackout in spite of, or because of, these journalists?

Another reason could be the alleged "vindictiveness" of Tayabas. In a letter to the PLM community, Dr. Villanueva dissociated himself from the administration of Tayabas: "I refuse to be identified with Dr. Tayabas' vindictive rage and oppression against helpless university officials, faculty and personnel (including a humble janitor)."

But what are these anomalies exposed by the COA? Plenty. There would not be enough space in this column if we explained in detail all of them. There is space only for a very brief summary of some of them.

1. AOM 2006-012-009, Agreement between PLM and National College of Physical Education Foundation Inc. (NCPE). Illegally allowing a private institution to use the facilities of the PLM under a "unilateral decision of the president," Dr. Benjamin Tayabas, with terms and conditions "manifestly disadvantageous to the University." The COA said the contract was not approved by the Board of Regents and that even if the Memorandum of Agreement was approved by the Board, "still the agreement would be disadvantageous to the University."

The COA also found out that Tayabas is a principal incorporator of NCPE, a "clear conflict of interest" prohibited by existing anti-graft laws.

Dr. Villanueva observed: "Evidently, the NCPE case bears a strong similarity of circumstances to the PLM and YMCA cases where P8.8 million of public funds were diverted to foundations organized by Dr. Tayabas which he both headed and where he sat as a member of both Boards of Directors. I am still asking where is the P8.8 million that was diverted."

2. AOM 2006-101-016 (Reimbursing credit card payments representing personal accounts of Dr. Benjamin Tayabas amounting to P107,592.92). The claim for reimbursement is more than his representation allowance of P8,000 a month as university president which he gets regularly. "However, during the period when he was relieved as University President (February 2006 to June 2006) records show that his personal credit cards were still charged to and paid by the PLM."

3. AOM 2006-012-009 (Food delivered to OPRES [Office of the President]) were "excessive and extravagant"; "the cost of the products were doubled and sometimes tripled"; "payments illegal, not properly documented and made to the wrong party."

Observed Dr. Villanueva: "Over and above these, the University President has a substantial participation in the P2,472,780.10 paid by Pamantasan food service for the year 2006. (This does not include the P300,000 food service provided by the canteen to the OPRES).

4. AOM 2006-101-017 ("Excessive and extravagant use of cellular phone privilege" which amounted to P341,702.82). "These expenses are apart from P1,338,263.47 paid to the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co." Some 59 percent or P200,188.76 of the amount paid for use of cellular phone "was for the office of the President alone." "Some university officials are using 2 to 6 units of cell phones." For prepaid cards alone, the University spent P90,970.00 "requested and received by the staff of the Office of the President." "Their purchase was not in accordance with regular procurement procedure." "There is a showing of a favored supplier"—Rush Card Enterprises, with address in Bulacan.

I tried to reach Dr. Tayabas by phone several times for his side but every time they told me he was not available. I also tried to get the names of the members of the Board of Regents but his office said they would call me back but never did.

The girl who cried wolf

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"OUR COUNTRY IS NOW ONLY A BIT BETTER than the category of backward countries wherein powerful, selfish interests are able to exploit poverty and ignorance to maintain the status quo or impede open progressive development….

"I have decided not to run for President during the election of 2004."

"(S)ince I'm among the principal figures in the divisive national events for the last two or three years, (if I were to run) my political efforts can only result in never-ending divisiveness….

"(Instead) relieved of the burden of politics, I can devote the last year and half of my administration to the following:

"First, strengthening economy; to create more jobs and to encourage business activities unhampered by corruption….

"Second, healing the deep divisions within our society.

"Third, working for clean and honest elections in 2004.

"If we achieve these, my successor as President will be in a good position to lead the Philippines through the next decisive steps for a strong and modern society.

"Thus, I appeal to each Filipino to help in this endeavor. Following the example of Jose Rizal, let us think of country and not just of self."

I remembered this speech shortly after I read about Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo asking everyone, the media in particular, to rally behind her in her effort to leave a legacy to the nation. I knew I had heard those same words before. I knew I had heard GMA tell the world she was no longer interested in politics but would spend the remaining time she had to do well by this country.

I remembered that I was one of the first to give her the benefit of the doubt when she said that, praising her for her decision, saying whatever sins she might have committed in the past were expunged by that one luminous act of grace, with or without five Our Fathers, 10 Hail Mary's and seven Glory Be's. I remembered that I was also one of the first to give her the benefit of scorn a few months later when she looked as near to abandoning politics as hell was to freezing. I myself vowed to cut the most important part of my body if she did not get herself drafted for president soon. I never for one instant after I said that felt in fear for the most important part of my body. Clearly, the whole "I will not run" jazz was just a ploy to buy time—to get her enemies to lower their guard and conjure all sorts of post-GMA scenarios.

So it was then, so it is now. You buy the idea of her going into reform mode now that she presumably heads into retirement, tell me who you are and I'll sell you the Brooklyn Bridge. If the past has any lesson to impart, it is only this: Every time GMA says she wants to devote her hours to making it easier for her successor and to making life better for her countrymen before she goes out to pasture, be afraid. Be very, very afraid.

Two things are bound to arise from it.

One is that she will accomplish the opposite of reform. Or she will re-reform the society in ways that Rizal himself, whose middle initial was Reform, would find unrecognizable. She promised to do three things then upon being "relieved of the burden of politics." She promised to give jobs and stop corruption. The only jobs available today are in the Gobi desert, apart from in call centers, which is what's keeping the country afloat. She has surpassed Erap only in one respect: She has made this country the most corrupt in Asia, the continent that invented corruption; Erap only made it second. That alone is enough to explain why she cannot explain why the vaunted growth isn't trickling down.

She promised to heal the deep divisions within the society. She got it right the first time: The reason this country has deep divisions is because she's there. Well, she's still there. She stays longer, the divisions get deeper.

And she promised to work for clean and honest elections. Hello Garci, Hello Bedol. Rizal did write "The Philippines: A Century Hence," but blessed as he was with heroic imagination, how could he have imagined that a little more than a century thence the Philippines would have Gloria instead of glory?

Someone who said she didn't mind calling herself pro-GMA told me recently: Why don't you give her a chance? I replied: A chance to do what?

We are already the most corrupt country in Asia. We are already the murder capital of the world for journalists and political activists. We are already a country whose longest-serving ruler after Marcos has not been voted into power and who has added whole new meanings to the word "serving." We are already a country that has made cheating a way of life, applying it to everything from elections to nursing exams. We are already a country whose justice system is based on rewarding evil and punishing good. Or never mind that abstraction, we are already a country whose justice wears the face of Raul Gonzalez and whose security wears the face of Banana-Eater.

Our country, said GMA in 2002, was now little better than a backward country where selfish interests are able to exploit poverty and ignorance. What can I say? She's still there.

Which brings me to the second reason why you should be very, very afraid when GMA talks of wanting only to make things easier for her successor. Her successor tends to be herself.

In the story of the boy who cried wolf, the villagers ended up not believing the boy when he finally told the truth. In the story of the girl who cried wolf, well, I don't know that the villagers finally stopped believing her. In fact, I don't know that she ended up telling the truth at all.

Certainly, I won't fear for the most important part of my body if I lay it on the line and tell Manny Villar and Mar Roxas and Loren Legarda: Stop dreaming. When GMA talks of leaving a lasting legacy, she means herself.

Revisiting EO 464

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

AS SENATOR-ELECT ANTONIO TRILLANES PREpares to take his seat in the Senate, he has begun to make noise about what he intends to do. He tells us that it will be his special mission to seek an investigation of extrajudicial killings. And since investigations involve the calling of witnesses, among potential witnesses who have been identified is the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

For his part, Esperon, according to media reports, has made it known that he will invoke EO 464, the instrument through which President Macapagal-Arroyo attempted to clothe executive officers with a mantle of inscrutability.

Sometime last year the Supreme Court came out with a long disquisition on the scope of the protective mantle made available by EO 464. To what extent can Esperon avail himself of it, if at all?

EO 464 deals with two kinds of investigation, the "question hour" and investigations in aid of legislation, and two classes of officers, heads of executive departments and other executive officers. Department heads may not be summoned to a "question hour" without the blessing of the President; but no one, except the President and Supreme Court justices, is exempt from being summoned as a witness in an investigation in aid of legislation. Does this mean that Esperon cannot escape confrontation with Senator-elect Trillanes?

The answer is not a simple one. It involves a careful understanding of the dynamics of what in jurisprudence is called "executive privilege."

Executive privilege, as the phrase indicates, is the right of the President and high level officials authorized by her to withhold information from Congress, from the courts, and ultimately from the public. The privilege is a function of separation of powers. Among the types of information which have been judicially recognized as privileged are state secrets regarding military, diplomatic and other national security matters. You can be sure that this is what Esperon will invoke. It is thus important to understand who may invoke the privilege and how it is invoked.

Since the privilege belongs to the President, it can be invoked only by the President or by officials authorized by her to invoke it. As our Court has said: "In light of this highly exceptional nature of the privilege, the Court finds it essential to limit to the President the power to invoke the privilege. She may of course authorize the Executive Secretary to invoke the privilege on her behalf, in which case the Executive Secretary must state that the authority is 'By order of the President,' which means that he personally consulted with her. The privilege being an extraordinary power, it must be wielded only by the highest official in the executive hierarchy."

Further the Court said: "It follows, therefore, that when an official is being summoned by Congress on a matter which, in his own judgment, might be covered by executive privilege, he must be afforded reasonable time to inform the President or the Executive Secretary of the possible need for invoking the privilege. This is necessary in order to provide the President or the Executive Secretary with fair opportunity to consider whether the matter indeed calls for a claim of executive privilege. If, after the lapse of that reasonable time, neither the President nor the Executive Secretary invokes the privilege, Congress is no longer bound to respect the failure of the official to appear before Congress and may then opt to avail of the necessary legal means to compel his appearance."

It must also be added that the claim of privilege must be specific, e.g., whether the information sought to be withheld involves military or diplomatic secrets, closed-door Cabinet meetings, etc. "Certainly, Congress has the right to know why the executive considers the requested information privileged. It does not suffice to merely declare that the President, or an authorized head of office, has determined that it is so."

What happens, however, if the President and Congress cannot agree on whether the matter is privileged or not? Then the Court must come in to determine the validity of the claim of privilege. It is good to recall what happened in the leading case of US v. Nixon involving the validity of US President Richard Nixon's claim of executive privilege against a subpoena issued by a district court requiring the production of certain tapes and documents relating to the Watergate investigations. "The claim of privilege was based on the President's general interest in the confidentiality of his conversations and correspondence. The US Court held that while there is no explicit reference to a privilege of confidentiality in the US Constitution, it is constitutionally based to the extent that it relates to the effective discharge of a President's powers. The Court, nonetheless, rejected the President's claim of privilege, ruling that the privilege must be balanced against the public interest in the fair administration of criminal justice."

It is true that the Nixon case was not about congressional investigation but about criminal prosecution. Presumably, however, any congressional investigation of extrajudicial killings would have for its objective the fashioning of legislation that can effectively deliver criminal justice.

Hello 'Gutsy'!

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

MORE THAN A MONTH AFTER THE MAY 14 midterm elections, it is appalling to note the irony of two Mindanaoan senatorial candidates still battling it out to be proclaimed as the country's final senator-elect. Until recently, the political skirmish between Koko Pimentel of Cagayan de Oro and Migz Zubiri of Bukidnon is still being waged without letup. But it is equally revolting to note that the fate of either will be largely determined by the yet to be decided "votes" from Maguindanao.

As it was in the 2004 presidential elections, so it is now. While Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency is still haunted today by the ghost of monumental electoral fraud encapsulated in the "Hello Garci" scandal, this year's election was also attended by similar charges of violence and massive electoral fraud, particularly the "Bedolesque" results from Maguindanao and other areas of Mindanao, particularly the ARMM.

But for the Commission on Elections and the Arroyo administration, many poll observers have already declared the May 14 midterm elections as one of the "dirtiest" exercises, if not the dirtiest, the country has ever had. And their results only reinforced further the perception, nay reputation, that the Comelec under Benjamin Abalos Sr. is incompetent and inefficient, if not an outright lackey of the Arroyo administration.

As the poll watchdog Kontra Daya stated, the current electoral mess particularly in Maguindanao is a result of the Comelec's failure to dismantle the "cheating machinery" in the ARMM and the continued disregard of the poll body and Malacañang to institute major electoral reforms even prior to the May 14 elections.

* * *

Here are excerpts of the post-election report made by Kontra Daya:

"The same cast of characters that marred the 2004 elections in the ARMM [was] activated for the 2007 midterm elections. The Comelec has been exposed as the main instrument of the Arroyo administration for the massive fraud that took place, and is thus most immediately liable.

"The cheaters and their patrons have been taking advantage of the prevailing socio-economic, political and cultural conditions of the Bangsamoro people to advance their vested interests. Extreme poverty is a condition that has been fully exploited by the poll cheaters who believe that anyone in dire need can be bribed.

"The ARMM is one of the poorest regions in the entire country. [It] has the lowest literacy rate with seven out of 10 persons aged 10 to 64 years considered as basically literate. It also has the lowest functional literacy rate with 62.9 percent.

"The Bangsamoro have traditional practices for selecting leaders which involve ijima (consensus) and shura (consultation). Elections have led to the disintegration and corruption of these traditional practices to varying degrees. Moreover, mayors have now generally become more influential than the sultans thus underscoring the fierce rivalry for such local elective positions.

"The Maranaos have a traditional practice called 'kanduri' or thanksgiving, in which gifts are shared with extended family on special occasions like birth and others. Kanduri has been exploited by politicians; it is used as a guise for bribing voters and provides cultural acceptability for such illegal and corrupt practices.

"While the wealthy and powerful spend hundreds of millions of pesos on their electoral campaigns, buying out rival candidates, rigging votes and engaging in various other forms of electoral manipulation, the Bangsamoro people suffer a deprivation of essential social services, maldevelopment and extreme poverty.

"Although elections seem to have become an opportunity for the poor and desperate to earn a few pesos, it is undoubtedly the grand cheaters in power who bag the biggest loot. As in the 2004 presidential elections, the Arroyo government has cynically and deliberately exploited the impoverished and anarchic situation in Mindanao to achieve its narrow partisan objectives. It has belabored an incredible 12-0 sweep by Team Unity in selected provinces, as part of a clumsy attempt to shoehorn its trailing candidates into the 11th and 12th slots in the national count. Ultimately, the Arroyo administration must bear the onus of failing miserably in fostering conditions for fair, credible and free elections in Muslim Mindanao."

* * *

Indeed, not only Mindanao's vast resources are being exploited then and now, even the Mindanaoans' right to vote has been repeatedly and wantonly exploited and manipulated by those in power.

Unfortunately, for the administration, despite the atrocious revival of the "Hello Garci"-like operations in Mindanao, the results, at least, of the senatorial elections, showed that no amount of cheating, stealing and lying will prevent the people from expressing their dissatisfaction and disgust with the policies of the present administration. The people simply protested with their guts; their sheer courage! This is a case of "Hello Garci!" versus "Hello Gutsy!" at its best.

This is shown, for example, in the boldness by which several teachers and election officers in Maguindanao who went against the whims of their political leaders; or in the fearless stand by several watchdogs like the PPCRV, Kontra Daya, the lawyers under Lente; the brave front put up by the militant party-list groups led by Bayan Muna, which survived unbowed the vilification and physical attacks on their ranks. But most of all, what mattered in the end was the sheer courage of the vast majority that defied the administration's electoral machinery.

Undeniably, "Hello Gutsy" serves as a fair warning to the Arroyo administration that, in the end, the people's collective will shall always prevail.

* * *

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Unable to pass the buck

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

ON MAY 10 ("PAYING THE PIPER") I WROTE about the resignation of national treasurer Omar Cruz. He'd warned that government wasn't collecting enough taxes, and that it would have to consider either raising taxes anew, or keep selling off government assets. I said at the time the President was facing a serious problem: she has to spend money to pacify the public and her supporters; but the money's going to be hard to find.

Shortly after the elections, Standard & Poor's didn't upgrade the country's credit rating—although it had widely been expected to do so—because it believed inefficient tax collection meant the government was unable to meet its income goals. Strike one.

On June 14, Moody's Investors Services also declined to upgrade its rating of the Philippines, saying there was a "moderate risk of a payment moratorium" owing to the high debt volume of the country. The large national debt, Moody's said, makes the country "vulnerable to shocks." Thomas Byrne, Moody's vice president, explained it this way: "The government's revenue base cannot yet support higher spending to meet major needs in public infrastructure, in part because of large interest payments on debt." Strike two.

James McCormack, head of Asia sovereigns at Fitch Ratings, told Reuters last week that weak tax revenues would push the deficit, excluding privatization, to more than P100 billion, or around 1.5 percent of gross domestic product. Strike three.

The reason of course that the three strikes didn't cause an immediate panic was that remittances remain high, hot money's in the stock market, and the necessary privatizations mean there remain juicy prospects for investors. But Trade Secretary Peter Favila was worried enough to torpedo a full-scale Cabinet revamp.

Still, government expected that for the first six months of this year, it would have to deal with a shortfall of P31 billion. But last Tuesday, the government had to announce that in the first five months of the year, the budget deficit had already reached P41.8 billion. It's the first time in four years that our government may not be able to meet its deficit target for the year. Whichever way you spin it, this is a disappointing thing, though not unexpected: it's an election year, after all.

Writing in Bloomberg, on June 22, William Pesek says the President has been trying to reassure investors that the fiscal situation would remain on track and under control. Pesek observed that "one could almost sense" the President's "frustration that many doubt her optimism—including the folks at Moody's." (And Standard & Poor's, and Fitch Ratings?) He added: "Unfair as that may sound, investors have a funny way of remembering when a government defaults on debt, as the Philippines did two decades ago."

What was Pesek referring to? Writing in 1984, Charles W. Lindsey, in Asian Survey, wrote, "During the 1970s, the Philippines had become increasingly indebted to multilateral lending institutions ... and transnational banks. Its foreign currency debt grew from about $2.1 billion in 1970 to ...what would turn out to be officially pegged at more than $25 billion in 1983. (Informed observers place the actual debt figure as high as $40 billion.) ... Traditional reliance on loans to cover trade deficits was no longer a viable policy."

The result was the Philippine government required a series of emergency loans from the IMF and the World Bank, and government policy had to subscribe to the prescriptions of the IMF. Lindsey went on to recount that "When the loan conditions became known in Manila, even many of President Marcos' political supporters turned against the technocrats, accusing them of selling out."

If Pesek, writing in Bloomberg, said the collapse of the Philippine economy due to presidential mismanagement still haunts investors (in the same manner, perhaps, that for decades the throwing of stones at the Beatles when they came to Manila supposedly blacklisted the Philippines in terms of big music groups performing here), then we can begin to understand the implications of the messy—and failed—attempt by the President to revamp her Cabinet.

A scapegoat was required. Two-thirds of our government's revenues comes from the collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. It was supposed to raise an additional P10 billion in revenue during the first quarter of this year. It failed. Heads must roll! In the end, only one did: Jose Mario Buñag's.

One of the most unseemly aspects of that botched effort—where the President gave verbal instructions, only to face a kind of revolt not only by members of her Cabinet, who refused to resign, but also from a swarm of appointees to government-owned corporations, the overwhelming majority of whom either ignored her order for them to resign, or who are dragging their feet, a more cowardly but equally effective way of defying the chief executive—was the fight between Finance Secretary Gary Teves and now ex-BIR chief Buñag.

The Buñag-Teves fight shouldn't distract us from the reality that both men were part of the same team; and that their decisions ultimately required the approval of the President. The two issues raised against Buñag—that businesses were encouraged to pay taxes ahead of time, so government could report good income numbers sooner, in other words, window-dressing that can't cover up the poor income numbers now; and that the BIR chief couldn't get his people to collect enough—make him only the most obvious example of an administration whose politics are getting in the way of its goals.

Which is why, the President is being exceptionally cautious, politically. Her own words have come back to haunt her.

Winston Garcia and the GSIS revisited

FOUR YEARS AGO, I WROTE ABOUT WINSTON GARCIA, the president of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). He was under constant fire and criticism not just from suffering government employees, but also from his supervisors at the Department of Finance (DOF).

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

One of the main issues against Garcia at that time was the suspension/delay in the processing of salary loans and pension applications of GSIS members. As a result, many government workers were up in arms. Even his nominal head at the DOF, Secretary Jose Camacho, came out with a damning report on GSIS operations indicating that indeed, the agency was not performing as expected. This report was never made available to the public. To counter this criticism, Garcia and his drum-beaters talked about computerization programs to streamline agency operations which would address the complaints.

Unfortunately, for the Filipino people and our government workers in particular, we were approaching the presidential elections of 2004. This is how I described the situation at that time: "Winston Garcia is our average, run-of-the-mill government official. He may even be a nice guy but he is simply in over his head. His greatest strength is his genealogy. He is the son of Gov. Pablo Garcia of the vote-rich province of Cebu and we are in an election campaign where every vote counts. So, don't expect you-know-who to sacrifice 2 million Cebuano votes in the name of a more efficient government organization."

In June 2005, the Social Weather Stations in a survey conducted for the Asia Foundation came out with dramatic findings on the two most corrupt government agencies in the country for the month of December 2004. "One out of five respondents named the GSIS and the AFP as having the worst reputations for corruption. Twenty-two percent of survey respondents named the GSIS as the most corrupt, while twenty-one percent said the AFP was the top offender."

At about the same period, Garcia announced that the GSIS had made a remarkable P35 billion profit—a revelation that President Macapagal-Arroyo used as a rationale for Garcia's continued stay in office. At that time, I suggested that we ought to consider this P35 billion profit report carefully. As any experienced executive will tell you, a smart accountant can make the figures in an annual report come out smelling like roses for the benefit of the boss. Just remember the statistics and book-keeping practices used by the executives of Enron and Worldcom that made people believe they were hugely profitable corporations, only to find out in the end that their shares had become worthless. I also added that while it is important for the GSIS to make profits to assure the viability of the system, the GSIS is still basically a service-oriented institution designed to assist and support its members, particularly our senior citizens who devoted the best years of their lives in government service.

* * *

Today, Winston Garcia is still president of the GSIS. But if one has been keeping track of Letters to the Editor of various newspapers, the criticisms have not gone away in spite of so-called modernization programs. The latest letter published last Saturday comes from Godofredo O. Peteza of Daet, Camarines Norte. He writes: "I happened to ride in a tricycle recently with a woman pensioner who told me that she did not receive her pension from January to May 2007. She finally received her pension for five months this June 2007. But, she continued, the GSIS will soon be requiring pensioners to submit to another validation—this time through voice recordings—this on top of the required validation through thumb prints."

Last March, in reaction to a GSIS official's letter stating that "whenever GSIS formulates programs and procedures, it has in mind the circumstances of its member-pensioners," Cherry V. Gutierrez of Makati City wrote: "I take exception to this. My father Nestor Gutierrez, 78 years old, has had to put up with this agency's inefficiency as well as insensitivity. Almost blind due to a tumor in his brain and almost unable to walk due to arthritic knees, my father has been to GSIS Quezon City five times since January when he filed his application for an eCard. Every time he goes there, he is given a different reason why his card is not yet ready and why he has not received any of his monthly pensions this year."

If it were only letter writers sending in their complaints from time to time, perhaps one could characterize them as isolated incidents from a few individuals. But as Juan Miguel Luz, formerly education undersecretary for finance and administration and now president of the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, has indicated, there are fundamental flaws in GSIS thinking. We can come up with technological innovations that look great on paper but if the basic requirements for the successful implementation of such innovations do not exist, these systems become a heavy burden on the folks who are supposed to be benefited.

Why come up with an eCard system—sounds very modern and classy—when 80 percent of our teachers who represent a major group of government workers are not within reach of an automated teller machine? This observation is true not just as it concerns teachers, but also as it touches most retired government workers. In the hands of good managers, computerization can be a tool for efficiency and better services. In the hands of stupid individuals, computerization is a dangerous tool that may actually result in more sufferings for the very people they were designed to serve.

As one reads the poignant complaints of senior citizens, regarding their much-delayed and difficult-to-access pension payments, one can only ask President Arroyo to please replace Winston Garcia as head of the GSIS. Her debt has already been paid in full with the blood, sweat and tears of our senior citizens. It is time to put someone else who can attend to their needs properly and promptly.

* * *

Erratum: My goddaughter called to let me know that I demoted her husband Jess Gascon in my last column. Actually, Jess retired from the Air Force with the rank of colonel and is now in a number of dynamic business ventures.

THEY SAID

The true cost of election fraud

"As long as the sacred vote of even just one person is violated, we are not free."

—Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
FFCCCII (La Union Cultural Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Zhiwei Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (La Union Cultural Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Meihai Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (Angeles Lip Lin School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Huiling Zhang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Pangasinan Universal Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Wu Cai	Teacher
FFCCCII (Jubilee Christian Academy) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yingmei Zeng	Teacher
FFCCCII (Jubilee Christian Academy) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Bing Yang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Jubilee Christian Academy) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Bizhen Dai	Teacher
FFCCCII (Jubilee Christian Academy) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Caiping Huang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil. Cultural High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Qiaoling Liu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil. Cultural High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yingyan She	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil. Cultural High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Zhongling Zhang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil. Cultural High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Junbin Lan	Teacher
FFCCCII (Xavier School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Lingling Xiao	Teacher
FFCCCII (Xavier School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Shuqing Zhang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Xavier School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Jialin Ke	Teacher
FFCCCII (Xavier School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Rongfen Wang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Chiang Kai Shek College) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Weixia Wang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Chiang Kai Shek College) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Miao Feng	Teacher
FFCCCII (Chiang Kai Shek College) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yan Wang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Hope Christian High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yanlan Liu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Hope Christian High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yali Tang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Tarlac Bayanihan Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xuerong Huang	Teacher
FFCCCII 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Tingting Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Lina Xu	Teacher
FFCCCII 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Siwen Zhang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil. Institute of Quezon City) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Zhenzhen Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Tarlac Bayanihan Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Renji Zheng	Teacher
FFCCCII (Tarlac Bayanihan Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Jianzhao Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (Chiang Kai Shek College) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Minghong Cai	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil. Institute of Quezon City) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yi Li	Teacher
FFCCCII (Chiang Kai Shek College) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Jing Guo	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil. Institute of Quezon City) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Weihong Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil. Academy of Sakya) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yiping Lan	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil. Academy of Sakya) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Zhongwang Sun	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil Chen Kuang High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yuting Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (St. Santiago Elementary School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Luyue Tang	Teacher
FFCCCII (St. Santiago Elementary School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Huoxia Ye	Teacher
FFCCCII (Northern Rizal York Lin School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Wei Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Northern Rizal York Lin School) 6/F Federation Center. Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xueping Zou	Teacher
FFCCCII (Pag-Asa Elementary School of Cavite) 6/F Federation Center. Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xiaoling Zhuang	Teacher
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FFCCCII (Phil. Chen Kuang High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Kasi Fei	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil. Chen Kuang High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Qiuhua Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (Tiong Se Academy) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Li Ling	Teacher
FFCCCII (Tiong Se Academy) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yanbing Wang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Hope Christian High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Lei Xu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Hope Christian High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Zhongchao Wei	Teacher
FFCCCII (Pangasinan Universal Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Meixian Wu	Teacher

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 338-2013 & 303-[illegible].

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–June 25, 2007)

Immature politics, disrespectful solons

I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL WHEN the first 10 winners in the 2007 senatorial election were proclaimed. I watched the rites intently on TV as each of their names was called. It was a momentous occasion for them, and I was proud to see my chosen candidates stand to be proclaimed and to receive their certificates.

But I was disheartened at the sight of two senators-elect from the Genuine Opposition, two of the most vocal against the administration, probably the youngest among them in terms of experience, and obviously the most disrespectful.

The veteran lawmakers all came in formal attire, except Sen. Benigno Aquino III who wore the dominant color of the post-Marcos era.

It was a "moment of glory" for the newly elected senators. I wondered how they would perform as senators. They might have wanted to be different or saw the ceremony as nothing more than a stamp of approval or a seal of excellence, not unlike that awarded to kids in nursery or prep schools. But I have seen children better-dressed for the simplest of ceremonies in school, all because they feel proud about the school honoring them.

I have also seen children sing the national anthem with great pride, their hands on their chests. But as the TV camera focused on the candidates, I saw Senator-elect Alan Peter Cayetano's lips moving but not in sync with the song. Was he singing some other song, or didn't he know the anthem's lyrics?

It's time for them to become more mature. They have always preferred to hang the administration's dirty linen in public, even though they want to keep their own skeletons in their closets. Their responsibility now is to work for a better nation, not to further destroy it.

I am not a pro-administration person but I appreciate the efforts being done to improve our lot.

I am glad that at least the other GO candidates I voted for were respectful, but I am sad that only two of my Team Unity candidates won. I am happy, too, about my choice of independent candidates.

I am now a grandmother and I long for that time I can heartily say that I am proud to be a Filipino, for that time I can shout to the world that I will never leave this country, for that time I can brag about our leaders working hand in hand to give our people what they deserve most in life—a happy, peaceful environment where each one enjoys the same opportunities, where children are safe even when they're alone in the streets, where good overcomes evil and where justice reigns supreme.

—ANA MA. ESPERANZA C. RAGRAGIO,
84-61 Corpus Christi St.,
Lagro Subd., Quezon City

Rate adjustment pro-consumer too

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER of Pete Ilagan titled "Another big blow to electricity consumers." (INQUIRER, 6/21/07)

Ilagan claimed that Meralco made unauthorized collections amounting to about P2.5 billion in over-recoveries. For Ilagan's enlightenment, the updating of the generation charge for November and December 2006 is still the subject of a Motion for Reconsideration now pending at the Energy Regulatory Commission. The motion stemmed from an ERC order (Feb. 1, 2007) which stated that Meralco should not have updated the generation charge in November to P4.7096 per kWh following a provisional approval at that level; instead, the generation charge should have remained at P4.4290 per kWh.

In the case of the billing month of December, Meralco maintained the generation charge at P4.7096 per kWh in the absence of a subsequent order from the ERC. In light of its Feb. 1 order, however, the ERC asked us to submit a scheme to refund customers the additional amount of P0.2806 per kWh collected for November and December 2006—a matter that, as earlier noted, is still the subject of a Motion for Reconsideration.

Ilagan should understand that the monthly filing for adjustments in generation and system loss charges following the Sept. 1 order of the ERC increased the lag of cost recovery from supposedly just one month (under the Automatic Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism) to as many as five months. With the pegging of the generation charge at P4.4290 per kWh, reflective of July 2006 costs, there is now an obvious disconnect between the cost of supply and the generation charge.

Were customers overbilled in November and December 2006? Ilagan, a participant in almost all the monthly rate filings of Meralco for generation cost adjustment, should know that Meralco's actual cost of supply for November and December 2006 was more than P5 per kWh. He gripes about paying P4.7096 per kWh when Meralco had in fact advanced the payment of the differential to its power suppliers.

The generation charge is merely a pass-through charge. However, due to the delayed recovery and the pegging of the generation charge to a certain level, it is causing a financial strain on Meralco. Our under-recoveries no longer stand at just P12.2 billion, but more than P13 billion. Even the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines warned about Meralco's financial difficulties caused by the under-recoveries.

Amending Sec. 4e Rule 3 in Epira's IRR—to allow Meralco to once again make automatic rate adjustments instead of going through a tedious process of publication and public hearings, which has turned out to be more expensive to the consumers—would be a relief to everybody, not just Meralco.

—ELPI O. CUNA JR.,
vice president and director,
Corporate Communication,
Meralco, Pasig City

DOH dealing with malaria cases

I AM WRITING IN RESPONSE TO the INQUIRER's June 19 editorial cartoon, which implied that the Department of Health was caught sleeping on the job, in relation to the alleged malaria outbreak in Antipolo City.

Allow me to clarify that the local government unit of Antipolo City, the agency implementing the malaria control program—together with the DOH, through its Center for Health Development-4A—has been conducting preventive measures, such as indoor residual spraying and mass blood survey of residents; it has also been treating positive cases in three sitios, namely, Sitio Sapinit and Sitio Palinlangan of Barangay San Juan and Sitio Binayoyo of Barangay San Jose.

Indoor residual spraying of houses remains a powerful method of preventing malaria cases from reaching epidemic threshold level. It has been proven to have faster effects against the malaria-causing mosquitoes called anopheles. These measures have been going on for two weeks, even before the news on the alleged malaria outbreak was reported.

The DOH central office has already provided anti-malarial drugs, Rapid Diagnostic Tests and insecticides for indoor residual spraying to the government of Antipolo City.

The DOH, along with Antipolo's health officials, has also intensified its health education campaign on the effective use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets against malaria. The health education campaigns are always supported by IEC (information, education, communication) materials such as posters, flyers, leaflets, streamers, etc.

All this time, the DOH has maintained a low media profile because, according to the Local Government Code of 1990, the LGU has the mandate to deal with its own affairs though it has also the prerogative and discretion to ask for assistance from national agencies.

I hope that this clarifies the wrong perception that the DOH was caught off-guard when malaria cases were reported to the media.

—FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., M.Sc.
secretary,
Department of Health, Manila

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2007
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A17

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Capiz OKs mining exploration despite ban

By Felipe V. Celino
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE warned that the 50-year mining ban in Capiz that is supposed to end in 2048 has been lifted after the provincial board granted a marble company an exploration permit early this month.

The board's action came two weeks after it approved a new Environment Code for the province.

The Madiaas Ecological Movement (MEM) and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan-Capiz), in a joint statement, said it came as no surprise that a mining exploration permit was granted to Teresa Marble Corp. on June 4 since the Capiz Environment Code allows it.

The code, approved on May 18, was put on hold by the board presumably to avoid making environment an issue in the May 14 elections, the statement added.

It reminded officials that it was the people of Capiz who opposed in 1998 the entry of Australian mining firm Mount Isa Minera, and this prompted the then provincial board to pass an ordinance declaring a mining moratorium for 15 years, which was later extended up to 50 years.

First law

That ordinance was the first local law that challenged the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and the mining liberalization program of the national government, the groups said.

With a new Environment Code that allows exploration, the provincial government has in effect lifted the moratorium, they said.

Companies that have many applications on Panay Island will never go into exploration without having assessed the value of mineral deposits, the statement said.

"Allowing them to conduct exploration is setting a precedent," the statement added.

Promises of jobs to boost the local economy will be outweighed by environmental degradation due to mining, the statement read, adding:

"It is high time for all Capiceños to register a strong opposition to the mining exploration because not a single community in the country progressed due to mining. Instead, they continue to live in dire poverty and others have worsened due to irreversible environmental damage."

Environment officials last week confirmed an ongoing mining exploration in some villages of Maayon town and other parts of Capiz, but these were deemed "illegal" for lack of permit, according to Mines and Geoscience Bureau provincial chief Edgar Agana.

Process

Agana said an exploration permit could only be issued by the governor after an applicant had completed the requirements, such as a resolution from the barangay council after a public consultation.

If there is no opposition, the resolution will be forwarded to the municipal council for approval and passed on to the provincial board.

From there, the resolution will be forwarded to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office. Once approved, it will be returned to the province for publication and posted in conspicuous places in the locality.

Board member Henry Reyes, who chairs the provincial board's committee on environment, defended the new Environment Code, saying it primary aimed to promote "ecological sustainable development" and to ensure that all reasonable and practicable measures are taken by the local governments to protect the environment.

No impediments

He said his committee approved the application for mining exploration dated Feb. 8, 2007, because there were no legal impediments vis-à-vis the new Environment Code and it did not run against any other laws regulating mining and even with the 1998 mining moratorium ordinance.

"The request is merely an exploration of the areas as possible site for mining operation. Allowing mineral exploration in areas not prohibited or reserved by the province will create economic activities and generate sources of income for the people, the committee's resolution said.

In a session on June 8, the provincial board also passed a resolution allowing and endorsing the conduct of mineral exploration and development activities over areas granted with exploration permits and mineral production sharing agreements by the MGB and DENR, except those declared protected in the Comprehensive Provincial Land Use Plan.

Davao court stops aerial spray ban enforcement

DAVAO CITY—ENVIRONMENT groups were saddened over a recent court decision temporarily stopping the enforcement of a landmark ordinance banning aerial spraying in banana plantations in the city.

The ordinance, approved by the City Council in March and supposed to take full effect on June 23, has been stopped by Regional Trial Court Judge Renato Fuentes, who granted a three-month preliminary injunction sought by banana companies.

In a June 20 decision, Fuentes of RTC Branch 17, recognized a "certainty of grave and irreparable damage and injuries the petitioner will suffer if the remedy is not granted."

A preliminary injunction is an order stopping a particular action before a final order is issued.

The banana plantations represented by the Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) filed the petition before the court, citing their difficulty to shift to ground spraying.

Convinced by environment groups' reports on the hazards that aerial spraying pose on the health of people working and living near the banana plantations, the city council approved the ordinance in March, giving the plantations a three-month transition period before the June 23 deadline to comply with the ban.

But the PBGEA contested the ordinance in court. Early this month, the court initiated marathon hearings on the petition that argued that banana companies will need over P400 million to shift to ground spraying and corporate officials questioning the constitutionality of what they called "oppressive" ordinance.

Fuentes' decision gives the banana companies three more months before the order is enforced.

"Our agony will be prolonged," said Dagohoy Magaway, spokesperson of Mamamayan Ayaw sa Aerial Spraying (Citizens against Aerial Spraying) or Maas.

"We'll continue to bathe and breathe toxic chemicals in the air. Slow, painful death will continue to stalk people living close to banana plantations," Magaway added.

Magaway said aerial spraying was more oppressive because it exposed a big number of poor people to toxic chemicals that may even cause death. *Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao*

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 312 ADOPTED BY THE PLENARY JUNE 7, 2007

On the Dissipation of Assets of PHILCOMSAT and PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORP.

Allegations of improprieties by the **PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT (PCGG)** and its nominees to **PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION (POTC), PHILIPPINE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CORPORATION (PHILCOMSAT)** and **PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORP. (PHC)**, and the anomalous losses resulting therefrom, prompted the joint Senate Committees on Government Corporations & Public Enterprises and Public Services, chaired by Senator Richard J. Gordon, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, based on PSR No. 455, introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago.

The Report states that in the course of the Committees' investigation, "it came across a matter of paramount public interest and concern the **lack of transparency and accountability of the PCGG**" and hence "an urgent need to revisit the PCGG and put an end to its **fraud, abuse and wastage**."

After eleven public hearings and one executive session, the Committees found:

1. Overwhelming mismanagement of POTC, PHILCOMSAT and PHC by PCGG and its nominees, resulting in the deterioration of the financial condition of these companies;
2. Outrageous compensation packages for the government nominees who control PHC as either uninformed (**Enrique L. Locsin**) or in absentia (**Manuel D. Andal; Julio Jalandoni**) directors;
3. Unjustified and/or unsupported soaring operating expenses of PHC, categorized notably as "Representation;" Professional Fees;" "Legal;" and "PR-Media;"
4. Alleged PHC advances to affiliates totaling P82 million beyond the reach of PCGG Comptrollers;
5. Suspicious PHC bank accounts with frequent multi-million peso transactions;
6. Huge losses from TCI, PHC's wholly-owned subsidiary in the call center business, established in 2004, and with a board of directors identical to that of PHC;
7. Attribution for clearance over such largesse laid upon "PHC President and CEO" Manuel Nieto, who, based on his medical records, has been suffering from Alzheimer's Disease since 2003;
8. Allegations by PCGG nominee **Enrique L. Locsin** on "illegal investments" and "questionable transactions," including the sale of aircraft by former and current Philcomsat directors, shown to have prior approvals of POTC/PHILCOMSAT boards of directors, and "were in fact encouraged by the PCGG agents and approved by the PCGG board representatives;" and,
9. PCGG's negligence in preserving the government's interest was "so gross as to amount to bad faith."

Based on the Committee Report, the incontrovertible evidence includes:

1. **Benito Araneta**, a former and replaced PCGG nominee, authorized P390 million "advances" to cousin **Antonio Araneta**, who never repaid the amount nor the 9% p.a. interest thereon since 2000; total principal and interest due is estimated at over P700 million;
2. SEC Auditors' Report on PHC, notably huge amounts for "Representation and Entertainment," including "Cash-PCGG gift;" checks payable to "Cash;" advances to Officers and Employees — authorized or made by PCGG nominees and other PHC directors from PHC's funds;
3. SEC Auditors' and PHC external auditor's confirmation of accounting entry by PHC of P2,000,000 "Cash for Sandiganbayan, TRO, POTC-PHILCOMSAT case" on 9/23/05, the date a Petition for a TRO by **Enrique L. Locsin** was granted by the Sandiganbayan;
4. PHC bank statements showing joint personal accounts of PHC directors, funded by PHC corporate funds, with disbursements to PHC director **Benito Araneta** for P3,200,000;
5. PHC bank statements with fictitious name "Cesar Munsayac" to operate the PHC bank accounts;
6. PHC's External Auditor's Working Papers showing salaries, fees, honoraria, bonuses, allowances, personal loans, "reimbursements" and unexplained "Cash," totaling P15 million and P11 million, paid to "**Enrique L. Locsin**" or "ELL" and "**Manuel D. Andal**" or "MDA," respectively, between 2003 to 2005;
7. Toyota's testimony on **PCGG Comm. Ricardo Abcede's** personally negotiating and taking delivery of a P1.6 million Camry, paid by PHC, a company that is not sequestered.

The Senate Committees recommend, and the Senate has adopted, the immediate:

1. Removal of PCGG jurisdiction over POTC and PHILCOMSAT shares since the Republic of the Philippines, and not PCGG, is the owner of 35% of said shares;
2. Replacement of government nominees as directors to POTC and PHILCOMSAT;
3. Privatization of the National Government shares in POTC and PHILCOMSAT;
4. Investigations by the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court (to preserve the integrity of these institutions); the Ombudsman; the BIR; and the Anti-Money Laundering Council on their alleged receipt of huge amounts of funds from PHC; and
5. Overhaul of, and further legislative investigations on, the PCGG.

The foregoing findings are supported by hard evidence and veritable proofs, including the Auditors' Working Papers submitted by the external auditor of PHC, available in the Senate Committees' records. Moreover, these findings are also corroborated by the SEC Auditors' Report to the Senate Committee dated January 15, 2007.

On the other hand, the published allegations of the Locsin/Araneta Group are not supported by any official documents or evidence. The Locsin/Araneta Group refused to submit any of the documents, such as bank statements, subpoenaed by the Committees, despite several promises to do so. Obviously, the Locsin/Araneta Group's claims at this stage are merely advanced to cover up the uncontroverted findings of the Senate Committees.

The Senate Committee report is available on the Philcomsat website: **www.philcomsat.com.ph**.

The legitimate and validly-elected Boards of Directors of POTC, PHILCOMSAT and PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORP welcome the Senate's findings and recommendations which are adequately supported by the testimonial and documentary records.

POTC, PHILCOMSAT and PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORPORATION
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Tel: (02) 815-8406 Fax: (02) 817-9430
Mobile: 0920–901–7221 Atty. Dennis R. Manzanal

Palawan plans to break away from Mimaropa

By Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—PALAWAN IS launching an ambitious bid to break away from Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) and, by congressional action, become the first separate administrative region in the country designed along the lines of environmental protection.

Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon, who is acting governor, made the announcement on Tuesday during a forum convened by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) as part of the 15th anniversary celebration of the Strategic Environmental Plan Law for Palawan.

The plan calls for the passage of a law creating two new provinces out of the island, a scheme that local officials claim will speed up the development of the entire Palawan.

In an interview, Ponce de Leon told the INQUIRER the bill being drafted would be sponsored in Congress by Representatives Antonio Alvarez and Abraham Mitra of Palawan's two districts.

The bill, he said, would also convert Puerto Princesa, the capital, into an independent city and form a regional entity to be called the Palawan Environmental Administrative Region (PEAR).

"We are fast-tracking this proposal and we will complete the process from our end as soon as we finish consultations with local government units and municipalities," Ponce de Leon said.

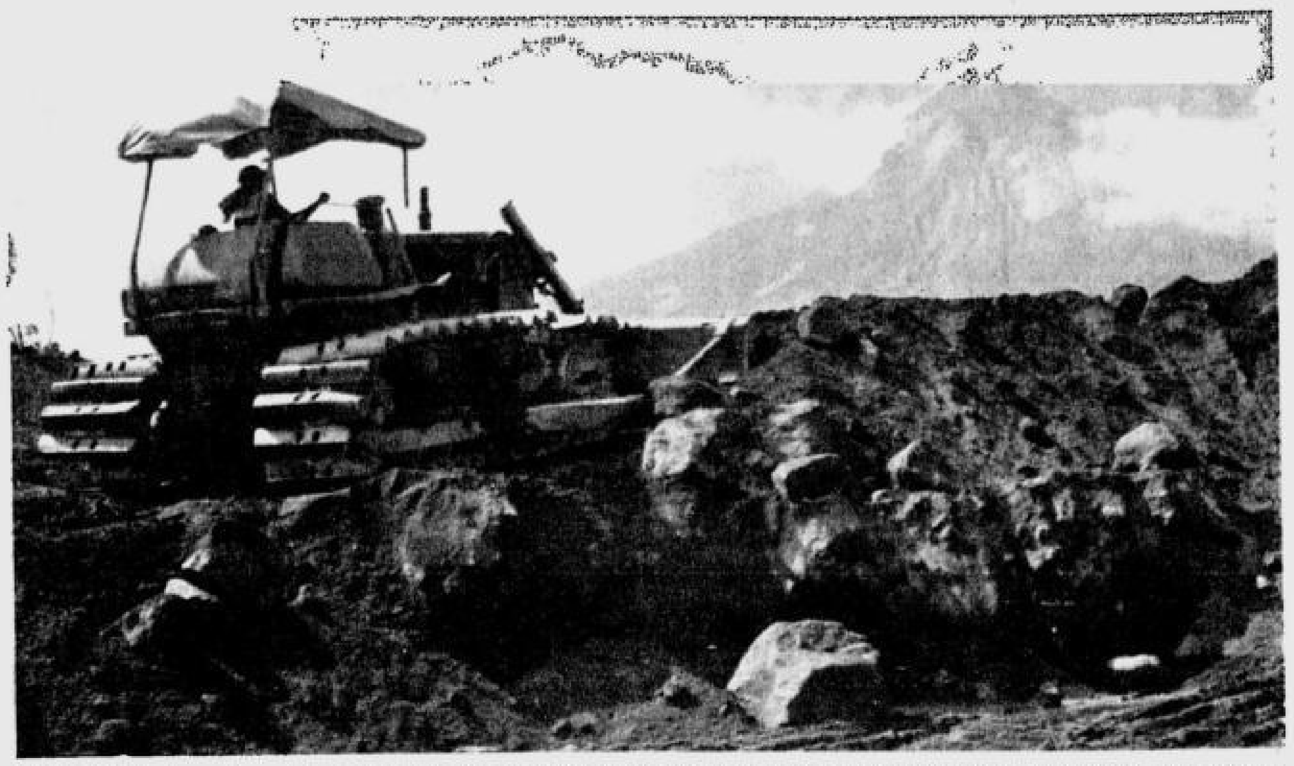
Most Palawan mayors are expected to rally behind the push and initiate the clamor on the lower level, according to Agutaya Mayor Zosimo Zabalo.

"This is a welcome development. We all have supported the earlier proposal to create a new region. We will conduct the necessary moves in our municipalities," Zabalo said.

He said he would sponsor a resolution at a meeting of the Palawan Municipal Mayors' League to support the initiative.

Board Member Gil Acosta, one of the original proponents of a resolution calling for the creation of two new provinces, said he would refile his resolution at the provincial board "once I get the proper political signal from the barangays and municipalities."

Palawan's projected royalty shares are expected to boost in the coming years following recent discoveries of oil and natural gas from exploration activities in oil and gas concession blocs around Palawan.



DREDGING, river channeling and earth dike construction by the Department of Public Works and Highways in three districts in Albay, including this one in Barangay Padang, Legazpi City, cost the government P655 million.
NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

New cities: Borongan in E. Samar, Tabuk in Kalinga, Batac in Ilocos Norte

THREE MORE CITIES HAVE BEEN created in Luzon and the Visayas.

Despite questions about the viability and its readiness, Borongan, the capital of Eastern Samar, was proclaimed a city at about 11:20 p.m. on Thursday.

About 300 people gathered at the plaza as city officials released balloons and lighted fireworks to celebrate the occasion.

Northern Luzon has two new cities after residents of Tabuk, Kalinga, and Batac, Ilocos Norte, endorsed the cityhood bids of their towns on Saturday.

"This is the historic moment we've been waiting for," Borongan Mayor Fidel Anacta Jr. said. "The people voted for progress," he added.

The Commission on Elections said 10,176 residents voted "yes" in Wednesday's plebiscite to ratify the bill transforming the municipality into a city. On the other hand, 3,426 residents voted "no."

Comelec election officer Raymund Gunda said only 40 percent of the voting population of 30,870 cast their ballots.

"The low turnout was expected because there was no vote buying, unlike the May polls," Gunda said. The plebiscite was orderly and peaceful, he said.

Comelec-ODEDO (Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations) lawyer Genevieve Velicaria who oversaw the referendum said Borongan spent P2.7 million for the exercise.

Velicaria said the "no" percentage was much higher in Borongan than the other newly created cities.

Those advocating that Borongan remain a municipality have expressed concerns about the push for cityhood.

Lawyer Esminie Tomeño-Azul said Borongan was not ready for cityhood because the basic conditions were not met.

She said good roads, airport, stable power supply, and good governance were not visible.

But Junie Quilitano. Department of the Interior and Local Government provincial director, said cityhood was a catalyst for growth and development.

He said the huge internal revenue allotment (IRA) would be used for basic services and livelihood programs.

With the ratification of Borongan's cityhood, its IRA will increase from P70 million to P240 million or more annually.

Days after the May polls, cityhood advocates put up streamers and campaigned intensively in the 61 barangays through forums and rallies.

The mayor's secretary, Alberto Lance Acampado, said the idea of cityhood had been crafted since 1998 and was revived only recently to avail itself of the P100-million income exemption.

Borongan's annual income is P55 million. After the cityhood celebration ended at 3 a.m., the first day of city life was relatively quiet because of power outage.

"This is our Borongan City," a resident said.

Kalinga

Tabuk Mayor Camilo Lammawin Jr. said 17,060 residents endorsed Republic Act No. 9404 that converted the capital into a component city of Kalinga.

Tabuk, an agricultural area classified as a first-class municipality (a town with an annual average income of at least P50 million), became the Cordillera's second city after Baguio.

Records from the Commission on Elections showed that 2,333 residents rejected the cityhood bid.

The Comelec pegged voters' turnout at about 35 percent. Tabuk has 44,128 voters.

"This victory is great for the people of Tabuk because it will spell more economic development in the city," said Lammawin.

Batac became the second city of Ilocos Norte after the capital Laoag when 11,750 residents endorsed RA 9407, the law that converted it into a component city.

Ilocos Norte

Comelec records showed that 1,433 residents rejected the cityhood bid. Voter turnout during Saturday's plebiscite was 51.46 percent.

Mayor-elect Jeffrey Nalupta, son of outgoing Mayor Jesus Nalupta Sr., will have the distinction of sitting as the first city mayor of Batac in July.

Local officials started pushing the town's cityhood in 1998 despite resistance from the League of Cities of the Philippines that has opposed the creation of more cities in the country.

Batac, with 25,642 registered voters, expects an increased internal revenue allotment share of P250 million following its conversion as a city.

It is home to commercial establishments and tourist spots like the Marcos mausoleum. It is also considered a "university town" because the town hosts the main campus of the state-run Mariano Marcos State University. *Cyrain Cabueñas, Inquirer Visayas; and Desiree Caluza, Villamor Visaya Jr. and Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Fil-Am whiz kid receives Bush award

From page A1

Darren was the only Filipino-American among 12 fifth graders of Cogburn Woods Elementary School who were awarded certificates for academic achievement by the White House through the President's Academic Awards Program on their promotion to middle school on May 25.

Established in 1983, the program "was designed to help principals recognize and honor those students who have achieved high academic goals by their hard work and dedication to learning," said the program's fact sheet posted on the website of the US National Association of Elementary School Principals (www.naesp.org).

Darren's certificate, the President's Award for Educational Achievement, is given to students "that show outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development in their academic subjects."

Mother teary-eyed

"We were really thrilled when it was announced during the promotion ceremony … I didn't know that he had an award, and I was teary-eyed. I felt light-headed and the parents around me were looking at me," said Darren's mother, Rhea Diaz.

Diaz, an OB-gyne, set aside her practice to attend to her three children after the family migrated to the United States eight years ago.

"He was the smallest one on stage," Diaz said with a chuckle.

Fondness for books

Diaz and husband Dindo, a computer programmer, knew their first born was special as early as when he turned one. While other babies could only speak in syllables on their first birthday, Darren already spoke in straight sentences and showed a sharp photographic memory.

While he was still developing his motor skills, the boy, who lived in the Philippines until he was 2 1/2 years old, quickly developed a fondness for books and made his parents read him to sleep.

"We read to him every day. At first, there were Barney books, and then as he grew, he quickly graduated to the encyclopedia. We read him 100 pages every night and he knew if we skipped a page," his mom said.

Discovery and history channels

Now, Darren can finish novels overnight and constantly yearns for more books to read. It helps that programs on the Discovery Channel and the History Channel are his favorites, filling his insatiable thirst to learn more after he had read all his books.

DARREN Diaz: Smallest and smartest.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"He has a great vocabulary and he was the one who taught English to his *yaya* (nanny, also a Filipino)," said Diaz, laughing.

Piano, soccer, swimming

He even had time to learn how to play the piano and get physical in soccer and swimming, though he mostly toyed with educational games on his laptop as too much exhaustion usually caused his asthma to flare up.

It came as no surprise to the Diaz couple that Darren proved smarter than children his age when they enrolled him in kindergarten.

When he was tested for entry, then 5-year-old Darren's intellectual level showed he could compete with first graders.

Teachers at his first school, Manning Oaks, hence decided to place Darren in the Talented and Gifted Program, an academic program for students who show exceptional IQ levels.

"When he was in kindergarten, he was given materials for the first grade. So in the next school year, he got bored because he told me he already knew what was being taught. And, of course, I did not want him to lose interest in his studies," said Diaz.

The Diaz couple hesitated but later decided to speak with school officials to have their son promoted to second grade. They knew only then that the school was, in fact, planning to move Darren to third grade.

His parents then suggested: "Why not transfer him to second grade now instead of skipping it? At that time, Darren was already crying [because he wanted to move up]. After a week, he was transferred to second grade."

Toward third grade, Darren had to change schools as the family moved from a rented apartment to a house the couple had purchased, also in Alpharetta but in a different school district.

Bullying

It was in that first year at Cogburn Woods, an elementary school with only a sprinkling of Asians among close to 900 students, that Darren encountered classmates who called him names because of his size.

"He had to adjust because the culture was different and kids were calling him names because of the way he looked. They called him 'small fry' because of his height … But he never complained. I just asked him to tell me what was going on in school," his mother said.

"For him, it was OK … See, Darren, though he's very smart, he is very humble and he doesn't show off … But I told him he shouldn't be called names and be bullied," she said.

Whatever

Darren used his wit to respond to the nasty comments. But he only resorted to his arsenal of witty lines when he got very upset.

"I just ignored them or if they got me really angry, I just spat witty retorts back at them … like sometimes, I just say, 'Whatever,'" he said.

Darren's classmates apologized as soon as his parents brought up the matter with school officials. It did not take long for his schoolmates to notice that Darren deserved not laughs but praise and emulation for his intellect.

While on a summer break before moving up to middle school, Darren is not taking a vacation from his favorite pastime: learning.

He read a new history book his mother had just bought to catch up on Darren's knowledge on the subject.

For his next adventure, Darren is going to Fulton Science Academy, an institution that offers middle school courses but with special focus on math and science.

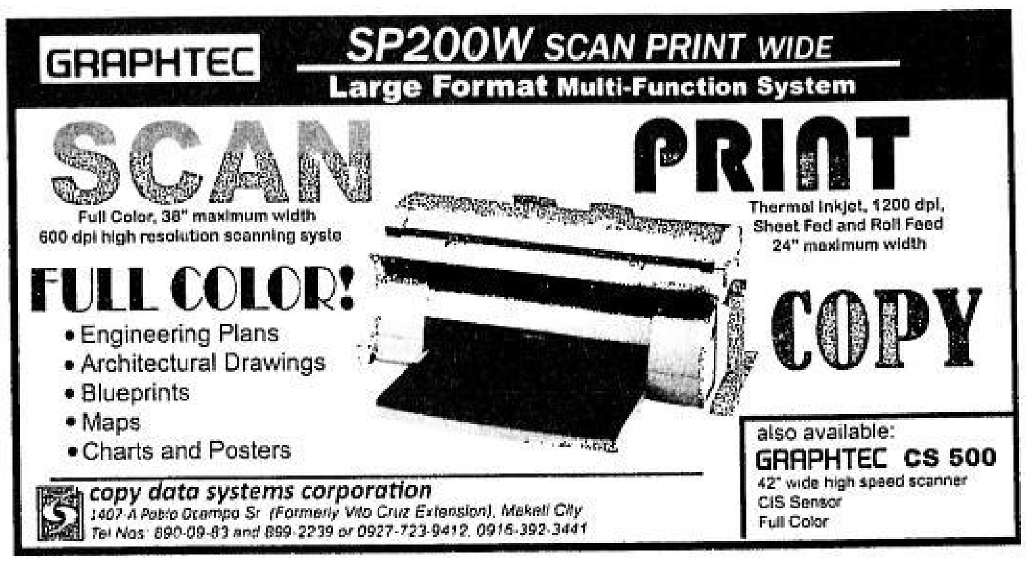
Nervous

"I'm kind of nervous about the new things because none of my friends are going there … Right now, I'm doing a lot of studying," he said.

On the side, Darren said he might take extra courses at his new school, particularly computer programming using the Flash program, movie-editing, dissection (biological) and chess.

They may well suit Darren best as the boy hopes to take up science courses in college.

"I might be taking up biology or mechanical engineering because I like tinkering with small things like circuits and stuff," he said.



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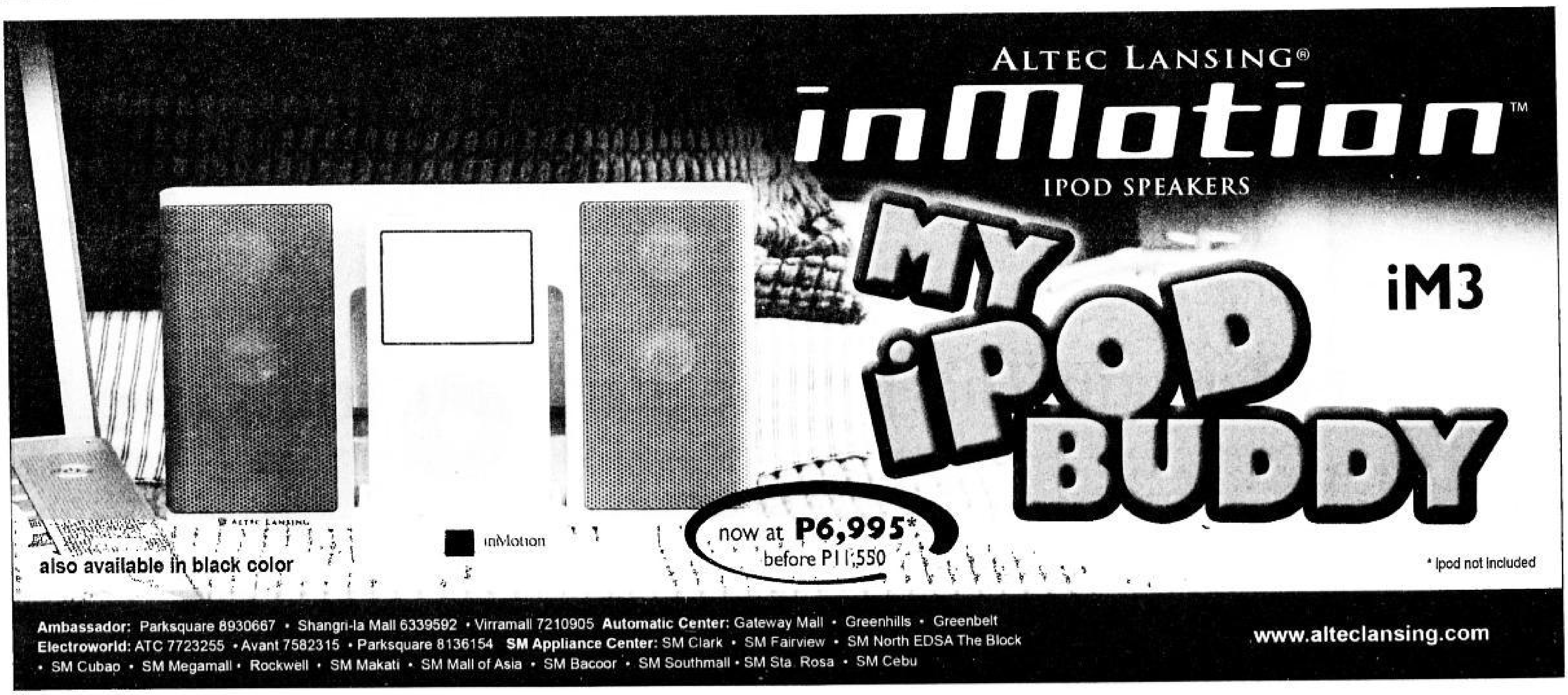

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3rd general breaks silence on murders

From page A1

The Inquirer source, a commander, said among those present at the conference were at least 100 soldiers, including the support staff of individual brigades and battalions.

Never a policy

"It's very abnormal," the general said in an interview late Friday night, referring to the idea of military-initiated assassinations being openly discussed in a military conference "as if there's nothing wrong about them."

"Extrajudicial killing has never been a government policy even during the Marcos regime," the commander said.

He said the meeting, which dragged on for about two hours, later prompted another incredulous general to phone then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and complain.

Senga, who retired in July last year, supposedly promised to talk to one of the two generals who presided over the meeting.

Extraordinary meeting

Senga also supposedly said no when asked if killings of political activists had become military policy.

The Inquirer yesterday again tried to contact Senga for his comment but his phone just kept ringing. He later sent a text message to the Inquirer saying he was out of the country.

Details about this "extraordinary" military conference were first disclosed to the Inquirer by two other generals, who had vowed to help Senator-elect Antonio Trillanes IV investigate political killings under the Arroyo administration.

The two generals have promised to provide the former Navy officer with "ammunition" for privilege speeches and committee inquiries by the Senate.

Not a solution

The third general did not say if he, too, was willing to feed Trillanes information. But he was clearly, though quietly, against what appeared to be a pattern of political killings being carried out by a particular section of the Armed Forces.

In the interview, the third general maintained that killing suspected communists would not solve the decades-old insurgency problem.

He was particularly not amenable to the premise that legal organizations, like Bagong Alyansang Makabayan or the party-list group Bayan Muna, were fronting for the communist movement and its armed component.

Fire with fire

While "fighting fire with fire" could initially work in certain combat situations, he argued that such an approach, when adopted as a policy, would drive the perceived enemies "back to the hills."

The source, for instance, condemned the killing of several retired military officers in Albay, apparently by communist death squads. He said these officers had nothing to do with the issue of political killings, but were murdered just the same.

"The safer premise is to acknowledge the possibility that some of these militant groups might have been infiltrated by (communist insurgents)," he said.

"This way, you will approach the problem individually. You won't think that all Bayan members are communists and, as such, they all deserve to die."

'Terror with terror'

The general noted that left-wing personalities had been previously lured down from the hills and encouraged by the government to join the parliamentary dialogue.

"But what's happening now? We're gunning them down."

He said the military approach of fighting "terror with terror" was occasionally used in certain parts of Mindanao, where the nature and complexion of the armed struggle was different.

But even then, he argued that the strategy led only to wider and even more serious divisions, primarily between the Muslim and Christian populations.

During the Luzon military conference, the source said military units were similarly divided on the issue of political killings.

On the one hand were those who bought the idea that "a good communist is a dead communist," he said. On the other were those who sought to pursue the military hierarchy's pacification campaign, meaning "winning the hearts and minds of civilians."

Within the ranks, those who adopted the latter approach were occasionally jeered as "*binabae*" (effeminate), according to the source. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

GMA longs for return of overseas Filipino workers

From page A1

(overseas Filipino workers), but we long for a time when they can come home," she told the audience of politicians and business leaders.

"We long for a time when working abroad will be an option rather than a necessity," she said.

Ms Arroyo's remarks came after a program moderator, Martin Soong, pointed to criticism that the Philippine recovery was being fueled mostly by dollar remittances from almost eight million expatriate Filipinos rather than positive internal economic developments.

Close to 10 percent of the Philippine population now live and work in more than 100 countries.

Last year, expatriate Filipinos sent home $12.8 billion, up 19.4 percent from 2005, according to Philippine central bank figures. The amount excludes money remitted through informal channels.

The remittances helped boost local consumption and drove up the economy. This year, authorities expect the amount to rise to $14 billion as more Filipinos depart for foreign employment opportunities.

Most Filipinos here work as maids, but a growing number are employed by hotels, retailers and other service-sector establishments in the labor-starved city-state. A few are executives in multinational corporations and global banks.

Ms Arroyo said Manila was working to preserve the gains from the unpopular increase in the value-added tax, which has brought fresh funds into the state's coffers.

"Now that we have the money, we can make this growth sustainable and encourage investments so that they can create jobs, and our OFWs can come home," she said.

Ms Arroyo repeated this message when she spoke before members of the Filipino community in Singapore after Sunday Mass at the Suntec City Convention Center.

Plan to cut remittance cost

Ms Arroyo also outlined a set of measures meant to mitigate the effects of the peso's rise, although these remained at the planning stage, including the popular theme of reducing the cost of remittance.

"I have designated [Socioeconomic Planning] Secretary Romulo Neri to study how to give relief to our OFWs from the strengthening peso," she said. "One way is to use our post office system to reduce the cost of remittances."

Cabinet members who joined the Ms Arroyo's party said that the plan was preliminary and was still being studied.

The President devoted a significant part of her speech to explaining the dynamics that have pushed up the value of the peso against the US dollar—a sore point for many OFWs whose relatives back in the Philippines now enjoy fewer pesos for the same amount of dollars sent home.

Strong peso

Ms Arroyo acknowledged that impressive economic figures and the surging financial markets were little comfort for Filipinos who depended on OFW remittances.

"I understand the point of view of the simple OFW who regularly sends home his salary to the Philippines," she said in Filipino. "The strong peso brought about by the strong economy means that OFWs have to work even harder to increase their income to provide the amount spent by their families."

The peso has appreciated by close to a fifth of its value from the lows recorded at the height of the government's fiscal crisis three years ago.

Ms Arroyo sought to assuage OFWs' concerns, laying out the largely unseen benefits of a strong peso on the local economy.

"I hope you understand that this is the reason why inflation is low, even while the prices of oil, milk, flour and meat increase overseas," she said.

The strong peso and low inflation also translate to low interest rates, which benefit OFWs who borrow from banks and government financial institutions to buy or build houses.

Optimistic about Asia

In speech to open the two-day World Economic Forum, Ms Arroyo struck an optimistic note about Asia's economic and political prospects even as participants voiced their concerns over the region's "leadership deficit."

"Our time has come," she said. "Asia will be up to the task of leading our people and our region into a more dominant role in world economic and political affairs."

At the same time, however, Ms Arroyo—an ardent supporter of US foreign policy—hinted unease at moves by China and Japan to fill the vacuum left by the United States, which is focused on its own global war on terror.

"The US is the major political and military player," she said. "It has been preoccupied in the Middle East in Iraq and other crisis areas. This has left the perception of a leadership deficit in Asia."

This situation "left the impression that there is a political 'opening' for others such as China and Japan to fill," Ms Arroyo said.

Apart from trying to forge closer ties by spreading their economic largesse throughout the region, China and Japan have actively tried to facilitate peace on the Korean Peninsula.

"Yet this is [an] interim game," Ms Arroyo said. "The real issue is how the region will handle the next 20 or 40 years."

Ms Arroyo made a renewed pitch for regional economic integration through the efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which the Philippines chairs until it hands over the reins to Singapore in August.

In particular, she extolled the country's leadership of the regional body as it took steps to create an integrated community by 2015, the most notable being the declaration on the Asean charter.

Businessmen askance

During the forum, however, business leaders looked askance at Ms Arroyo's optimism for regional integration, expressing a more guarded view.

"There are lots of open questions," said Carlos Ghosn, who is president and CEO of automakers Renault and Nissan, pointing at the difficulty of harmonizing political and economic policies among the disparate East Asian economies.

"The challenge is how to establish a common agenda," he said. "How do we make it concrete?"

Focus on implementation

Taking up this challenge, Asean Secretary General Ong Keng-Yong vowed to steer the 10-nation organization away from its cumbersome consensus-building and planning traditions to one focused more on implementation.

"We recognize that there's a deficit," he said, muting Ms Arroyo's optimism. "Leadership is there, but we need better implementation."

Ong—a Singaporean—gave a glimpse of a more dynamic organization that will focus "less on talking" and "more on doing" when the city-state takes over the chairmanship in two months.

"If we just focused on implementation for the last 40 years, Southeast Asia would be very different today," he said. "The problem is that we've [only] been running at a pace that is comfortable to all. Perhaps we have to change." *With a report from AFP*

Dropouts take DepEd alternative

From page A1

out in May, just in time for ALS graduates to enroll in college or apply for overseas jobs because now they have a high school diploma.

Out of 35,404 takers of the high school A&E test this year, 10,887 passed, according to the DepEd website.

ALS Quezon City division coordinator Alejandra Mondoñedo has seen the program grow from a literacy cum livelihood project in the 1970s to what it is today: An alternative and practical option which allows school dropouts to complete elementary and high school education outside the school system.

Mondoñedo, who turned 65 this year, remembers supervising vocational courses, like cooking, cosmetology and sewing, at the Don Alejandro Roces Sr. Science and Technology High School on Roces Avenue in Quezon City.

A million stories

"Our students in the past were mostly working mothers and maids. When they enroll, they not only learn a skill, like cooking, how to give a manicure and pedicure, we make sure they also learn how to read and write," Mondoñedo says.

A devoted teacher, she has a million stories about her *alaga*, which is what she calls the students she has met and helped through the years. They include men and women in their 20s and 30s who are too embarrassed to go back to regular school, young stars—some of whom would come straight from taping at nearby ABS-CBN or GMA 7—maids, seamen, sidewalk vendors and yes, even children of congressmen.

She shares some of their stories with the Inquirer.

"Vicente," 38, has left the country many times to work as a seaman. But in 2005, he was asked to get off the ship. Reason: The company found out he had a fake high school diploma.

Mondoñedo says it was Vicente's wife who first came to see her to ask about enrolling a family member in ALS.

"I asked if she had brought her son. She was not answering. Finally, she said, *'Ma'am, hindi anak. Asawa ko po ang mag-aaral. Nasa labas siya. Ayaw pumasok at nahihiya. Baka daw siya ang pinakamatanda sa klase.* (It's not my son, it's my husband who will go to school. He's outside. He doesn't want to come in because he's ashamed to be the oldest one in class),'" she recalls.

Mondoñedo suggested then that the couple first observe the class. When Vicente saw there were four other people in their 30s, he decided to enroll.

"He made five good friends. Only three passed the A&E test. Vicente was one of them. But he was not able to attend the graduation because he already got a job as a seaman," she says.

Amelia

Then there's the story of Amelia, who became pregnant when she was in third year high school. She was 24 years old and a working mother of two when she realized that in order to get a good job, she needed a college degree. But in order to go to college, she had to finish high school. She, however, didn't want to go back to regular school. She would feel out of place with classmates 10 years her junior.

She enrolled in ALS at the Don Alejandro Roces Sr. Science and Technology High School and would sometimes bring one of her children to class because she couldn't find a baby-sitter. She passed the A&E test in 2005 and is currently enrolled at the Jose Rizal University taking up marketing.

In appreciation, she wrote a testimonial to the ALS, which Mondoñedo showed the Inquirer: "I'm very thankful for programs helping people who cannot afford to go to regular school. People who [have lost] their hopes and dreams because of wrong actions. I also thank our beloved teacher whose patience and support [enabled] students to reach their goals," Amelia wrote.

Then there's Roberto, 25, a Tesda (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority)-trained beautician who has won a lot of hair competitions. He was so good with hair, he caught the attention of Ricky Reyes who hired him as a trainer in his beauty school.

Roberto, a third year high school dropout, had a sibling working in Ireland, who wanted him to work there as well. But because Roberto didn't have a high school diploma, he couldn't apply for a job.

His case was referred to Mondoñedo by another hairdresser she had helped. Roberto attended the ALS sessions, passed the A&E exam last year and is now preparing to leave for Ireland because he landed a job as a beautician in a hotel.

Laurence

There's Laurence, who was 36 when she first enrolled at ALS. She had already worked seven years as a domestic helper in Taiwan. She came home, used part of her savings to take a six-month care-giving course so she could go back to Taiwan and work there, this time as a caregiver. She passed the required Tesda exam, but she couldn't get a job abroad without a high school diploma.

She heard about the A&E test, took it without attending the ALS and failed. The following year, she attended the ALS sessions, took the A&E test and this time, she passed.

"We also had a sidewalk vendor, who would leave his basket of Chippy and Storck outside the room and attend the sessions. He wants to become a barangay tanod and one of the requirements was a high school diploma," Mondoñedo says.

Show biz folks

Then, of course, there are the show biz folks. Actor Mat Ranillo III enrolled at least two of his children in the ALS on Roces Avenue. Alma Moreno enrolled one of her kids in the ALS in Parañaque City.

Angelika de la Cruz was an ALS student in Malabon and passed her A&E test in 2003. Janus del Prado was an ALS student at Roces and passed the A&E test in 2005.

"Janus was a good student. He made friends, attended birthday parties and even brought food," Mondoñedo says, adding that sometimes, their school can be as star-studded as the two networks nearby.

But not all show biz personalities finish the course or pass the exam, she notes. Those who stay long enough to graduate realize that show biz is fleeting and that sooner or later, they would need another profession.

Need for diploma

"We've had hotel singers, band members, even 'Japayukis' who have attended ALS. They dream of becoming professionals. To reach that goal, they would need a high school diploma," she says.

It doesn't matter why they stopped school, if they work or stay at home, not even if they're rich or poor. Mondoñedo believes they can get a high school diploma if they study hard and attend the ALS sessions.

A few years ago, the school principal, who was then new, called her attention to an ALS student who came to school in dreadlocks and wore earrings.

"The principal told me: 'Can you please ask him to cut his hair and not to wear earrings to school? It's not the correct dress code,'" Mondoñedo narrates.

"*Sabi ko pag pinutulan mo 'yan ng buhok, wala na siyang* livelihood (If we ask him to cut his hair, we would be depriving him of his livelihood). After class, he goes straight to Timog and plays with a band."

(For information on DepEd's Alternative Learning System, 635-5193 and 632-1361 loc. 2083.)

Rosato or lemato? This tomato has floral, fruity smell

From page A1

The transgenic tomato includes a gene from a variety of lemon basil, *Ocimum basilicum*, that produces an aroma-making enzyme called geraniol synthase, according to Efraim Lewinsohn of Newe Yaar Research Centre and his colleagues.

A panel of 82 people has tested the experimental fruit against unmodified counterparts.

Nearly all of them were able to detect novel aromas, which the testers variously described as "perfume," "rose," "geranium" and "lemon grass."

When put to the taste, the genetically modified tomatoes were preferred by 49 members of the panel, while 29 preferred unmodified tomatoes and four expressed no preference.

The genetically modified tomatoes, however, have only a light red color because they have only half as much lycopene as conventional tomatoes.

In addition to conferring a bright blush to tomatoes, lycopene is an antioxidant, a compound credited with health-giving qualities.

Offsetting the low levels of lycopene are higher levels of compounds called volatile terpenoids, which possess antimicrobial, pesticidal and antifungal qualities, so the genetically modified tomato may have longer shelf life and need less pesticide to grow, according to Lewinsohn.

His research team believes that other crops and flowers that, like tomatoes, produce carotenoids, could also be engineered to change their smell and taste.

The first genetically modified tomato—the so-called FlavrSavr—hit the US market in 1994. It had a modified gene that was involved in fruit softening, meaning that the tomato could be left to ripen on the vine and have a longer shelf life.

FlavrSavr was eventually withdrawn because of disappointing sales.

Today, no genetically modified tomato is being commercially grown in the United States, according to (www.gmo-compass.org), a European Commission-backed website for information about genetically modified crops.

Fresh genetically modified tomatoes have never gone on sale in Europe and other markets where there are worries about the environmental and health impact from transgenic food.

The Israeli paper is published online on Sunday by Nature Biotechnology, part of the Nature group of science journals. *AFP*

Noted artists lead tree-planting feast in Puerto Princesa

From page A1

ed in a 17-hectare site on the edges of the Irawan forest.

Bencab, other artists

National Artist Ben "Bencab" Cabrera led this year's roster of local and international volunteers in the Pista Y Ang Kagueban's (Feast of the Forest) celebration.

Joining Cabrera were Gus Albor, Virgilio "Pandy" Aviado, Elmer Borlongan, Antipas Delotavo, Julie Lluch, (all recipients of the Cultural Center of the Philippines' 13th Artist Award), and Mark Valenzuela (a maverick artist from Dumaguete City).

Also sharing top billing was the recently crowned Ms Philippines–Earth Jean Harn.

Cabrera, along with another National Artist Napoleon Abueva and company, in a recent meeting with Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, agreed to produce artworks out of this year's Kagueban celebration.

Proceeds from the sale of the artworks will go to a kitty that will be used to manage the Irawan watershed, a critical source of potable water for the burgeoning capital of Palawan.

Abueva sculpture

Abueva was slated to join the trip to Puerto Princesa but begged off at the last minute because something came up. He instead donated one of his finished works to the project.

"We're helping the city government raise some funds through our works to sustain events such as this," Cabrera told the INQUIRER, as he worked on a charcoal sketch of an indigenous Tagbanua tribesman.

Aviado said he and the other artists could not say how much money the group was going to make from the artworks that were done at the Irawan watershed. However, orders from patrons for some of the paintings had already been received.

An acrylic by social realist Borlongan, who teamed up with artist Plet Bolipata, was sold to a patron even before it was finished.

City museum

Hagedorn said some of the artworks would be put on display at the City Museum.

The mayor said the funds to be raised from the sale of the artworks would be jointly administered by the city government and Conservation International, a nongovernment organization, which partnered with the city government for the event, along with Smart Communications.

Puerto Princesa-based artist and patron Dinggot Prieto said the participation of Cabrera and company in this year's Pista Y Ang Kagueban "signified an important event in bringing the artistic community closer to the realities of forest conservation."

Bringing art to masses

"It's a welcome development for us local artists. This visit by Bencab and others is almost like being given a drop of ice cold sweet water in the desert. Specially in a place like Palawan, our exposure to senior artists is very limited. It sort of brings art closer to the masses. It takes away the elitism and the imperialism of Manila as the marketplace for the arts," Prieto said.

She said the city government initiative should serve as a model for other local government units in crafting their respective conservation and cultural development programs.

"Local governments need to come up with meaningful cultural development plans and I know that artists like Bencab and others are just too willing to help," Prieto said.

Recognition

Hagedorn's tree-planting program has received local and international recognition and, among other environment-related projects, has earned for the city a reputation for sound environmental management.

The evidence of its success is the significant increase in Puerto Princesa's forest cover based on satellite images, according to city planning officials.

Over the past 15 years, more than 1.2 million trees have been planted under the program "with a very high survival rate of 80 percent," said Roger Daquer, city environment and natural resources officer.

Part of the program is a year-round initiative "to ensure a good survival rate by taking care of the plants as they grow and become more adapted to the soil," Daquer said.

Deforestation reversed

The program has "completely reversed the trend that began in 1992 when we started in office," Hagedorn said. The forest cover, he said, was down to 50 percent from 75 percent and "our forests were being destroyed at a fast rate of around 10 hectares per day because of illegal logging and similar activities."

A total of 60,000 seedlings were prepared for the event on Saturday.

The number of volunteers who take part in the event steadily increases every year and ranges from 20,000 to 30,000 participants.

The last 100 years have seen the consistent decline of the country's forest cover "that only 3 percent of the original forest cover now remains," Conservation International said.

It placed the average national deforestation rate at 2 percent a year.

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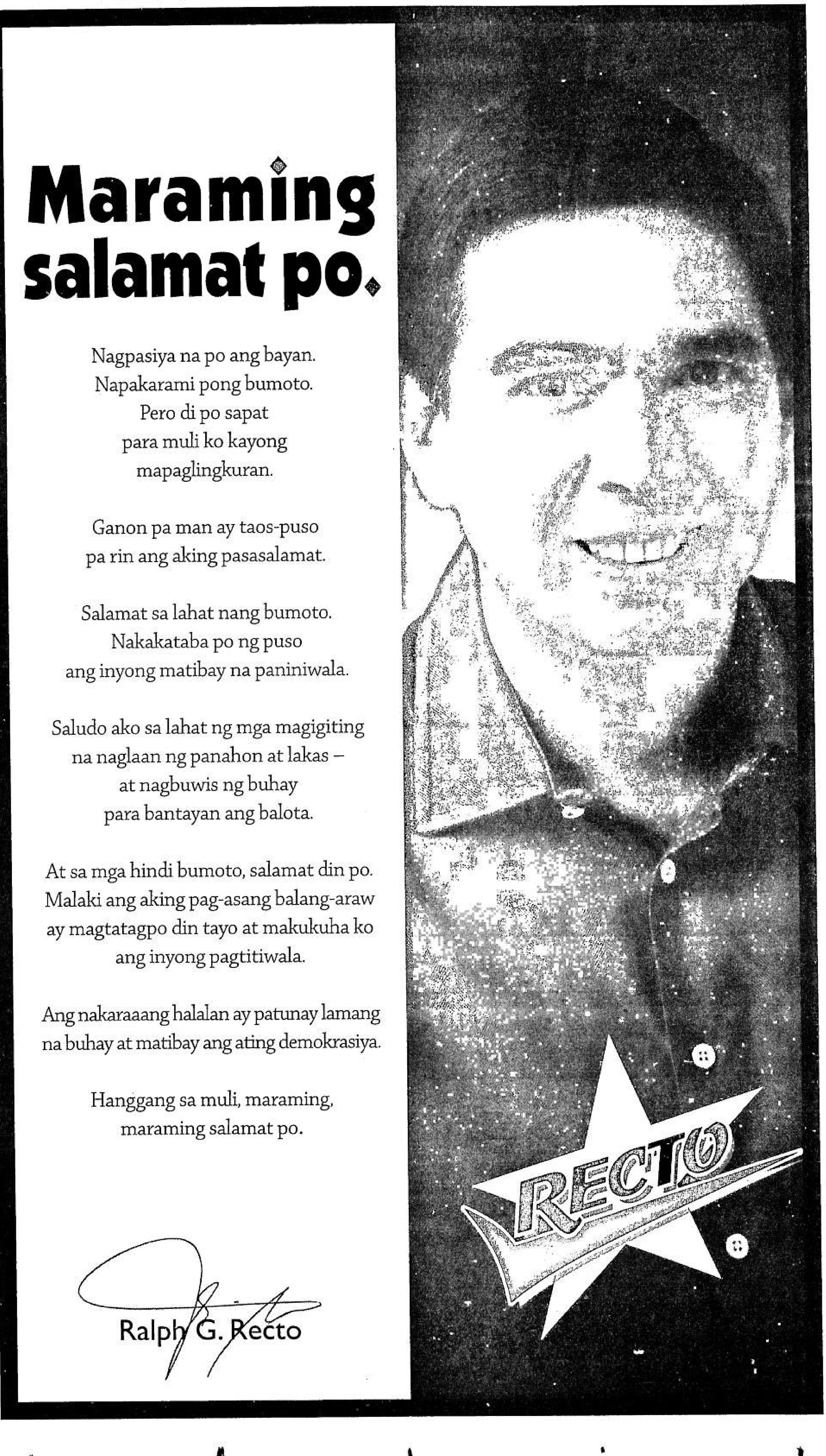

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pa rin ang aking pasasalamat.

Salamat sa lahat nang bumoto.
Nakakataba po ng puso
ang inyong matibay na paniniwala.

Saludo ako sa lahat ng mga magigiting
na naglaan ng panahon at lakas –
at nagbuwis ng buhay
para bantayan ang balota.

At sa mga hindi bumoto, salamat din po.
Malaki ang aking pag-asang balang-araw
ay magtatagpo din tayo at makukuha ko
ang inyong pagtitiwala.

Ang nakaraaang halalan ay patunay lamang
na buhay at matibay ang ating demokrasiya.

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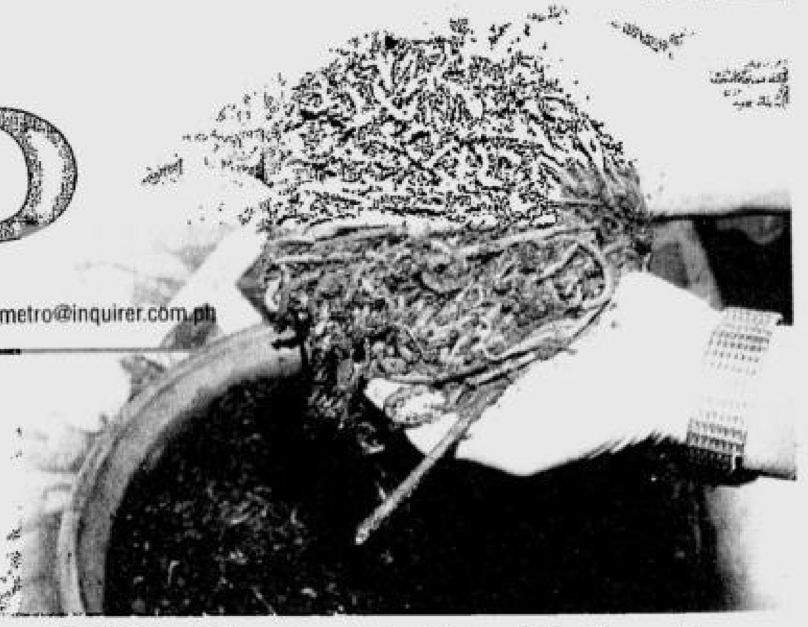


EARTHWORMS have been dubbed "nature's tiny farmers."

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

FARMER IN THE CITY

Earthworms help solve urban waste problem

By Prosy B. Montesines
Contributor

THE GROWING POPULARITY of vermicomposting has cast the lowly earthworm in a new light.

Vermicomposting refers to the process of using earthworms to turn organic waste into vermicompost—also known as vermicast, worm compost, worm castings, worm humus or worm manure—a high quality natural fertilizer and soil conditioner.

Earthworms have been dubbed "nature's tiny farmers " because of their ability to help plow, aerate, hydrate and fertilize the earth and produce plant food.

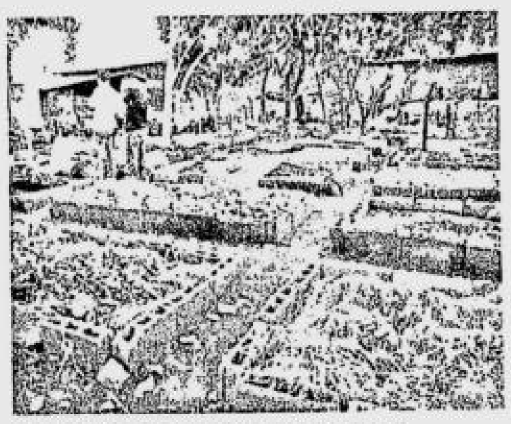
As a result, farmers, environmentalists, homeowners, gardeners, entrepreneurs and governments are now praising the soil-revitalizing powers of this slimy invertebrate.

'Angels of the earth'

Antonio de Castro, a self-trained vermiculturist, said, that the Chinese character for earthworms, when translated into English, means "angels of the earth."

His company, Earthworm Sanctuary, conducts seminars and workshops on earthworms and composting. He has been coordinating with government and the private sector, particularly with environmentalists, in developing the local vermiculture industry.

De Castro grew up in the United States where he taught English Literature at the San Francisco State University. After five years of teaching, however, he decided to return to the Philippines.



A FARM in Tanay, Rizal makes use of vermicomposting in raising produce.

The volume of trash—mostly dead leaves and kitchen waste—that littered the compound in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City where he and his family live, prompted him to think of a better waste disposal system.

At the same time, he found Metro Manila wallowing in a garbage crisis. According to the National Solid Waste Management Commission, food and kitchen waste account for about 45 percent of the total volume of garbage generated by Metro Manila, estimated at 6,169 tons daily.

The figure is expected to double by 2010, according to Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes in a report to the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP).

The garbage problem prompted De Castro to go into vermicomposting, also as an alternative to chemical-based farming.

"Organic crops contain no contaminants," he said. "The use of vermicompost is good for the health of the farmers because by using vermicompost, they avoid regular exposure to toxins and other harmful chemicals."

Earthworm Sanctuary

In 2002, he set up an earthworm farm in his family compound and called it the Earthworm Sanctuary because "we are very protective of the earthworms; we want to provide them an environment where they can do what they do best—eat and reproduce."

The farm uses the African night crawler species (Eudrilus eugeniae), a voracious processor of organic wastes. It has a high reproductive rate (an adult breeding earthworm produces 3.6 cocoons per week) and can thrive in a wide range of environments that duplicate its ideal living conditions.

The species was introduced in the country in the '80s by Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III, executive director of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research Development, an agency under the Department and Science and Technology.

Earthworm Sanctuary produces about 500 kilos or half a ton of vermicompost every month. "We have now reached the stage where, because of the voracity of the earthworms, we have to ask around for leaves and grass to feed our earthworms," De Castro said.

EARTHWORMS/ A24

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Navotas mayor confident of town's conversion into city

By Margaux C. Ortiz

NAVOTAS MAYOR TOBY TIANGCO EXpressed optimism that the coastal town would become Metro Manila's newest city despite the low turnout of voters in the plebiscite held yesterday.

Tiangco said that based on initial results, about 90 percent of those who cast their votes were in favor of Navotas' conversion while only 10 percent were against the idea.

He added that in one precinct, 25 voted "yes" while no one voted "no."

Few voters

"However, there were only a few residents who participated in the plebiscite," Tiangco said, adding that when he went to a precinct to cast his vote at around 9 a.m. yesterday, there were no other voters in sight.

The mayor attributed the low voter turnout to the people's overconfidence that the "yes" vote would surely win.

"They know about the plebiscite, but it seems that most took it for granted," Tiangco said, adding the low turnout could also be attributed to the fact that the referendum was held on a Sunday.

According to the mayor, Navotas' conversion into a city could mean an additional P100 million from the Internal Revenue Allotment fund.

Additional funding

"More funds mean more projects and more services for the new city's residents," Tiangco added.

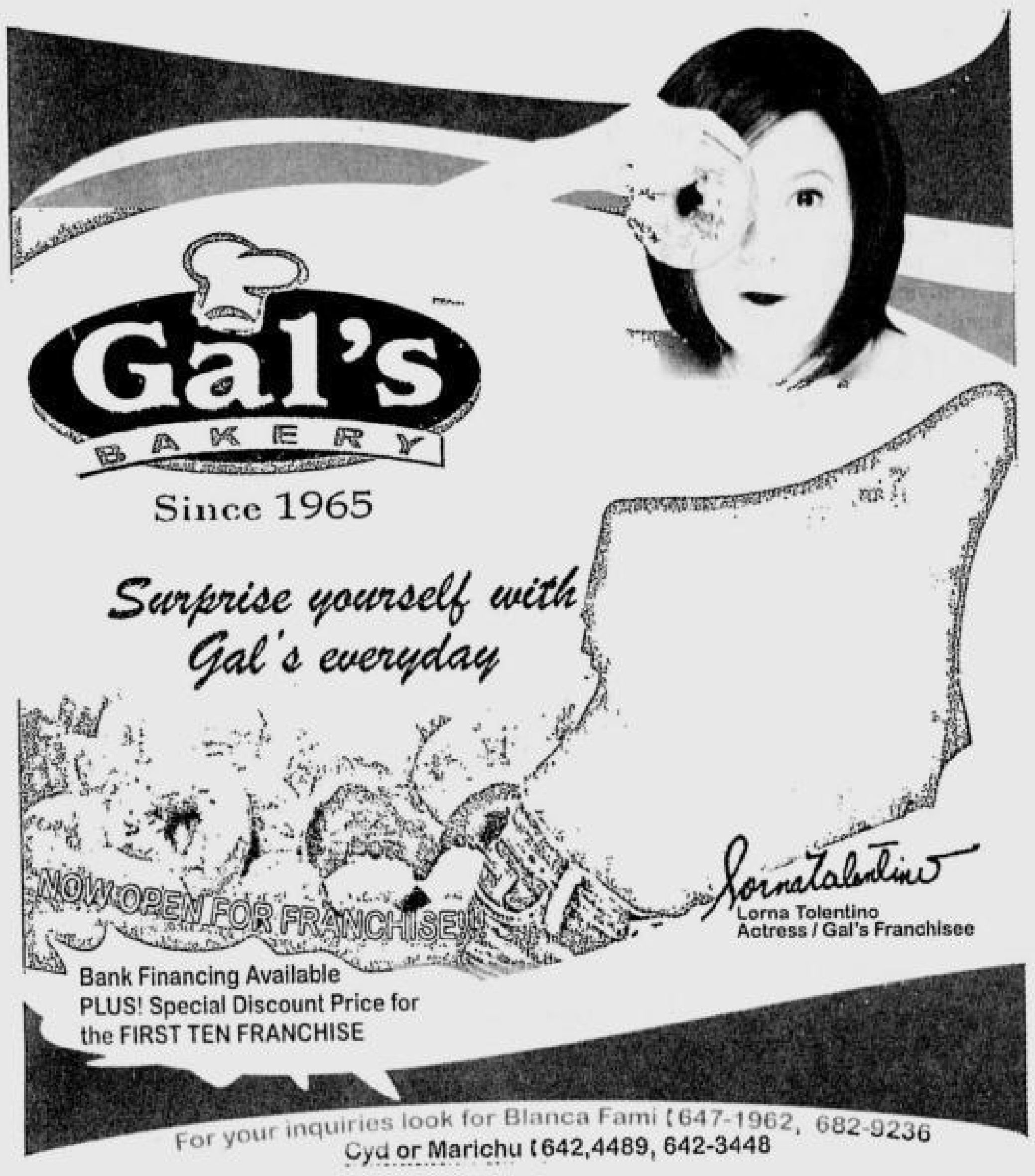
The conduct of the plebiscite to ratify House Bill 5500 converting the coastal town into a city was ordered by the Commission on Elections through Resolution 8113 dated June 1.

The resolution also directed the municipal government to remit to the poll body P3.9 million—the estimated cost for holding the referendum.

Should the "yes" vote win, residents of Metro Manila's newest city will be able to elect into office Navotas' first congressman in the 2010 local elections.

According to Jose M. Tolentino Jr., the deputy director for operations, the Navotas municipal government was able to comply with all the requirements needed for the ratification of the bill calling for the town's conversion into a highly urbanized city.

These include a population of at least 200,000, a land area of about 100-sq km and an annual average income of P50 million.



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METRO
Citizen's call
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Towing problem no more

IN RESPONSE to a complaint sent to Citizen's Call which was published in the Metro section's June 18 issue regarding a towing problem in Makati City's central business district, Joey Salgado, officer in charge of the city government's information and community relations department, sent this update: "Mayor Jejomar Binay has ordered the Department of Public Safety to stop the practice (of towing vehicles as early as 6 a.m.) immediately. Towing operations will start at 8 a.m. He has also ordered an investigation into the reported nonissuance of official receipts (for those who incur penalties)."

Live up to promise!

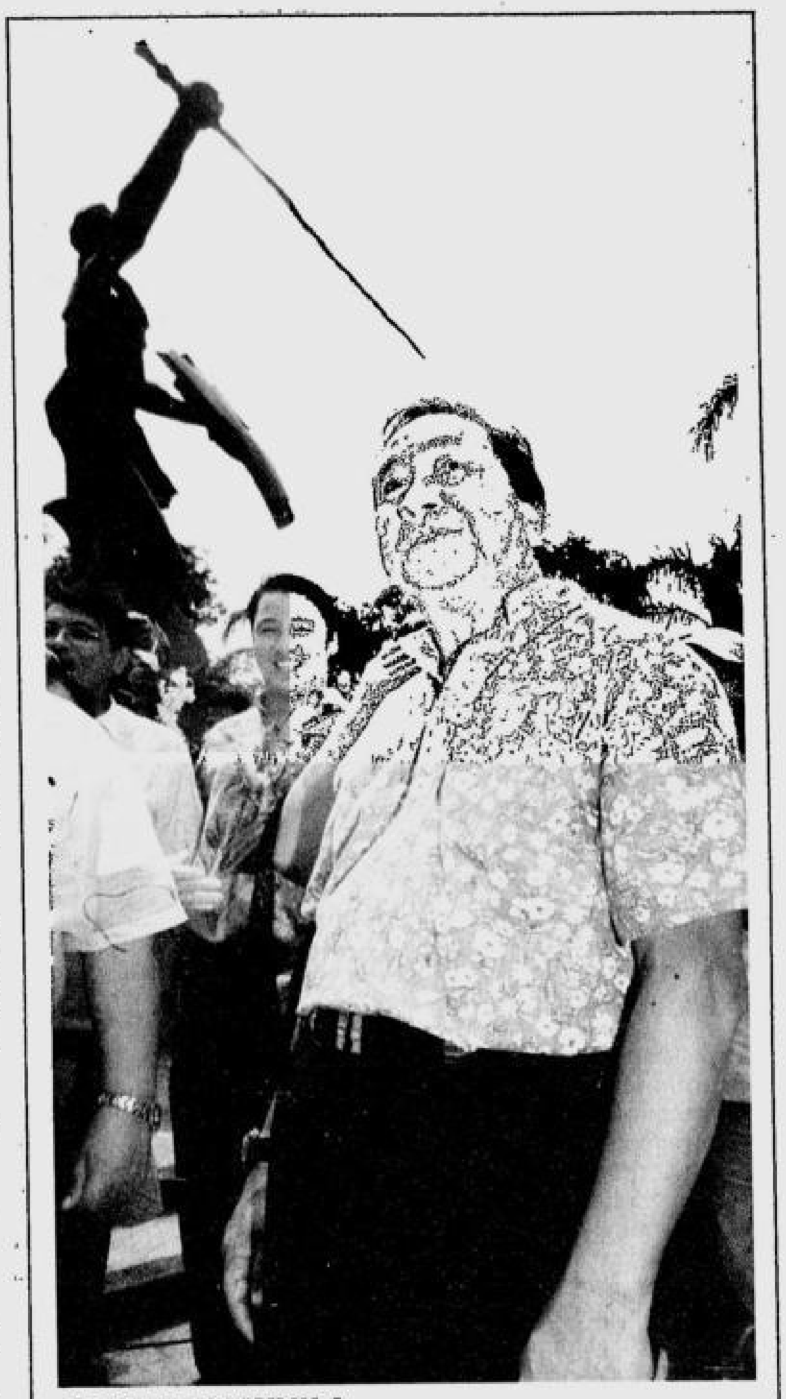
SANA yung nanalo sa eleksyon nung Mayo dito sa amin ay bigyan ng pansin na makapasok ang poste ng Meralco para sa mga residente (We hope that whoever won in the elections in our area last May will help us get Meralco (electricity) connections in our area soon).

DANTE, 40,
Cogeo, Antipolo City

Daredevil tricycle drivers

TRICYCLES often go against the flow of traffic on Tandang Sora Avenue (near the corner of Commonwealth or Don Mariano Marcos Avenue), Quezon City in front of the Tierra Bella Subdivision gate near PSBank and Jollibee. This situation poses a constant threat to life, limb and property. Please help.

RAMON DIMAANO, 50,
Tierra Bella, Quezon City



ARAW NG MAYNILA
Manila Mayor Lito Atienza pays tribute to Rajah Sulayman, who once ruled over the city, at yesterday's celebration of the 436th Araw ng Maynila. ERIK ARAZAS

Firemen hose down San Juan residents but they don't mind

By Kristine L. Alave

IN SAN JUAN CITY YESTERDAY, there was water everywhere but nobody seemed to mind.

Hundreds of residents trooped to the streets in the morning to celebrate the feast day of their patron saint, St. John the Baptist, by dousing each other with buckets of water and by dancing as they were hosed down by fire trucks.

The celebration was led by city officials, particularly Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito, who positioned himself on top of a fire truck and liberally sprayed his constituents with water from a water cannon.

The celebration is in commemoration of St. John's baptism of Jesus Christ.

The mayor said this year's fiesta is special because San Juan is celebrating the festival as a full-fledged city for the first time. San Juan became a city last week after the majority of the 8,000 voters who participated in a plebiscite approved its conversion into a city.

The city's fire department sent three fire trucks to douse residents with water. A volunteer fire group and another fire truck from Camp Aguinaldo Fire Station joined the occasion.

Olive Reyes, a long-time San Juan City resident and city hall worker, said this year's event was less grand than the celebration in 2006.

Reyes said the city government did not have much time to prepare as it had its hands full with other events such as the plebiscite and the city's centennial celebration.

However, she said the people's spirits and excitement were not dampened by the circumstances. She noted that San Juan residents have always greeted St. John the Baptist's feast day with gusto.

FO2 Cesar Aquino, one of the firemen who participated in the event, said there were more people at the plaza in front of city hall this year compared to last year.

The event started at about 8 a.m. and ended five hours later, with San Juan residents drenched to the bone.

"*Parang panata na ito sa kanila. Talagang kulang ang fiesta kapag walang basaan* (This has become a vow for them. The fiesta would not be complete if we do not douse other people with water)," Reyes said.

Reyes added that mothers with ailing children often bring them to the streets to be doused with water in the hopes that St. John the Baptist would intercede in their behalf.

METRO BRIEFS

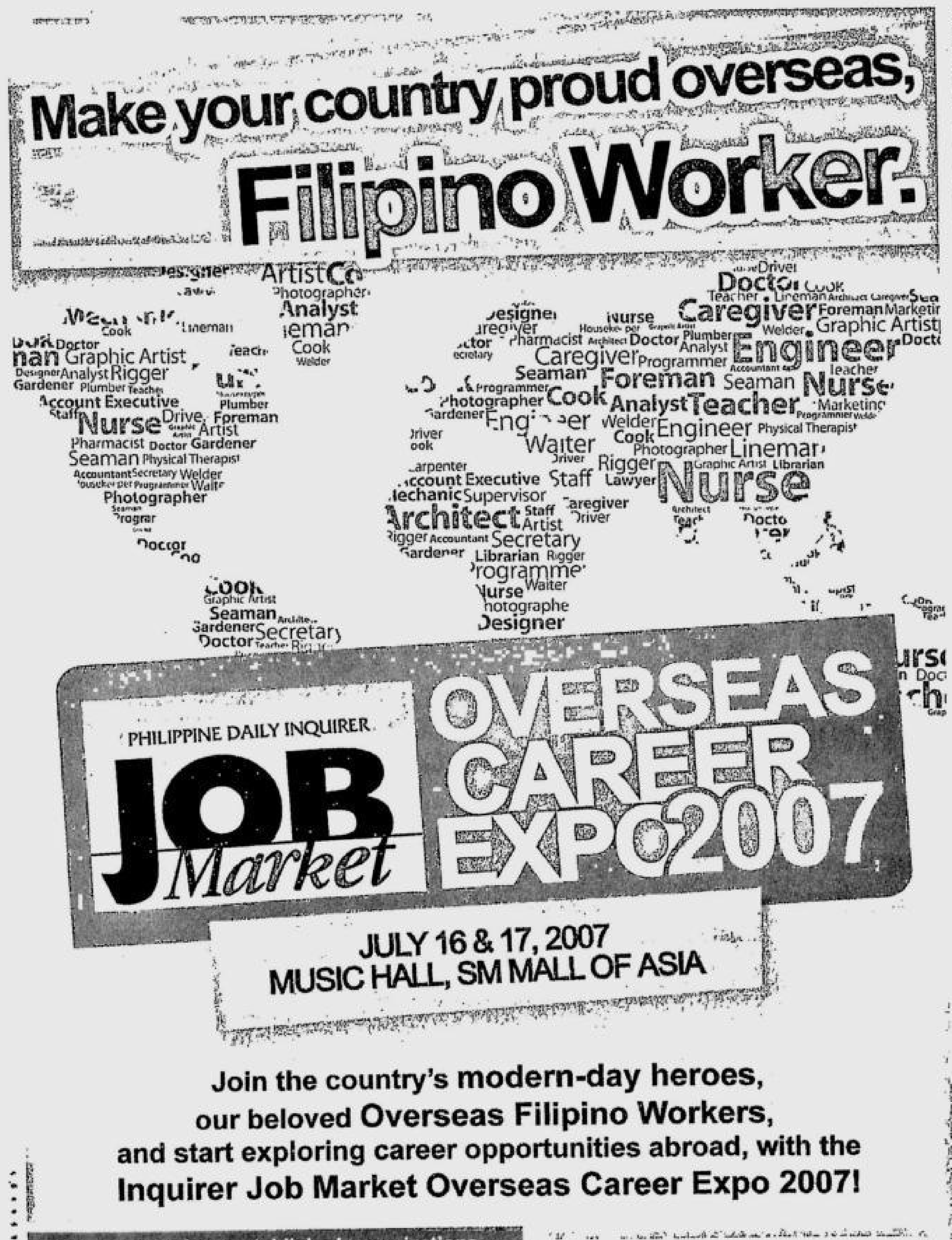
Rally-free Edsa

AMID criticisms, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando defended the Metro Manila Council resolution banning rallies and other public assemblies on major roads without a permit from the agency. Fernando said the measure would ensure "automatic coordination" between the MMDA and local governments about planned activities that could disrupt the flow of traffic. "People should stop thinking of holding parades on Edsa … The MMDA is already having a hard time with Edsa as it is," he said.

DJ Yap

PBA player Inquirer Read-Along guest

BASKETBALL superstar Olsen Racela will be the guest reader in the next session of the Inquirer Read-Along to be held on Saturday, June 30 from 10 to 11 a.m. Launched on May 13, the program aims to teach kids to love reading by gathering children aged 7 to 13 for story-reading sessions with celebrities and role models. Previous guests include actress Manilyn Reynes, child stars Sam Concepcion and Cheska Ortega and University of the Philippines summa cum laude Mikaela Fudolig. Interested participants may call Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at 8978808 local 329. Slots are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.



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Earthworms …

From page A23

He also put up an organic farm in Palawan using vermicast. "I can testify to the superiority of vermicast as a fertilizer because it is the only fertilizer that we have been using in the past four years to grow lettuce, tomatoes, eggplant, cilantro, ampalaya, watermelon and many other crops," he said.

Vermicomposting is a simple technology that does not require a big capital and intensive labor. One can start with a kilo of earthworms which costs from P500 to P1,000. The basic materials for earthworm beds are hollow blocks, plastic sheets and used fishing nets. A shredder is optional since the earthworms shred the substrate or waste materials which usually consist of discarded vegetable, animal manure, rice hull (*ipa*), sawdust (*kusot*), hay (*dayami*) and leaves.

In a limited space, earthworm beds can be stacked at a certain height to be determined by the vermiculturist. De Castro works full time observing and experimenting on earthworms and setting up earthworm farms. His studies prove, among other things, that vermicomposting can reduce organic waste significantly and help solve the problems concerning dumps and landfills.

The earthworm as an agent for generating wealth from waste now plays a stellar role in the relentless and integrated efforts of the private and public sectors to save the environment, increase food production, improve nutrition and perk up the economy.

It might as well be called "the heroic earthworm," said Odette Alcantara, an enviromentalist.

DID YOU KNOW

EVERY 24th of June, areas in the Philippines that have St. John the Baptist as patron saint celebrate his feast day with the traditional "basaan" or "buhusan" (dousing of water). People douse even strangers supposedly to remind them of their baptism. In Metro Manila, the practice is done in San Juan, which recently became a city.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

90 AFGHAN DEATHS IN 1 WEEK

Karzai blasts US-led forces for civilian toll

KABUL—PRESIDENT HAMID Karzai angrily criticized Saturday "indiscriminate and unprecise" operations by Nato- and US-led forces in Afghanistan, which he said had killed 90 civilians in just over a week.

The grim-faced president told reporters that one recent operation had killed 52 people in three days of fighting in the southern province of Uruzgan.

"Attacks causing civilian casualties, as I have said before, are not acceptable for us. It is no longer tolerated," Karzai told reporters.

"As you are aware over the past several days, as result of indiscriminate and unprecise operations of Nato and coalition forces, our people suffered casualties," he said, flanked by his Defense Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak.

He listed four operations over the past 10 days, the most deadly being the one in Uruzgan's Chora district.

"In Chora, Nato, coalition forces fired artillery on Chora from Tirin Kot in which according to our latest information ... 52 of our countrymen were martyred," Karzai said, speaking at his palace in the capital.

The Nato force said Karzai's figure for the number of civilian dead was similar to its own but that it was unclear if they had been killed by security forces or Taliban fighters.

The president also referred to strikes by the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) in the southern province of Helmand early Friday that police said killed 25 people, including nine women and three young children.

The president said his repeated calls on the Isaf and US-led coalition to coordinate their operations with Afghan security forces to avoid hurting civilians had gone unheeded.

"From now onward they have to work the way we ask them to work here. That's the line," he said.

An umbrella body of non-government groups said this week its figures showed that troops had killed nearly 250 civilians this year.

This was happening because of "the extreme use of force, the disproportionate use of force to a situation and the lack of coordination with the Afghan government," Karzai said.

"You don't fight a terrorist by firing a field gun 37 kilometers away into a target. That's definitely, surely bound to cause civilian casualties," he said.

Afghanistan was thankful for the international community's help against insurgents, he said.

"But Afghan life is not cheap and it should not be treated as such," he said, reflecting a feeling among many ordinary Afghans who find the foreign forces arrogant and culturally insensitive.

Civilian casualties threatened the success of the international operation against the Taliban and its allies in al-Qaida, said Karzai. *AFP*

US House votes to deny all aid to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON—THE US HOUSE of Representatives has voted to deny all aid to Saudi Arabia, despite repeated assurances by the administration the desert kingdom was cooperating with the United States in the war on terror.

The ban is contained in a little-publicized amendment quietly slipped by a bipartisan group of lawmakers into a $34.2-billion-bill financing US foreign operations in fiscal 2008.

The massive bill, featuring a wide range of humanitarian programs, was approved by lawmakers in the middle of the night on Friday.

Similar measures on aid to Saudi Arabia have been passed by the House before. But the current one goes a step further by closing a legislative loophole that in the past had allowed the administration of President George W. Bush to waive these bans by invoking requirements of the war on terror.

The amendment, championed by New York Democrat Anthony Weiner, a strong supporter of Israel, states that "none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available" by the foreign operations bill "shall be obligated or expended to finance any assistance to Saudi Arabia" or "used to execute a waiver."

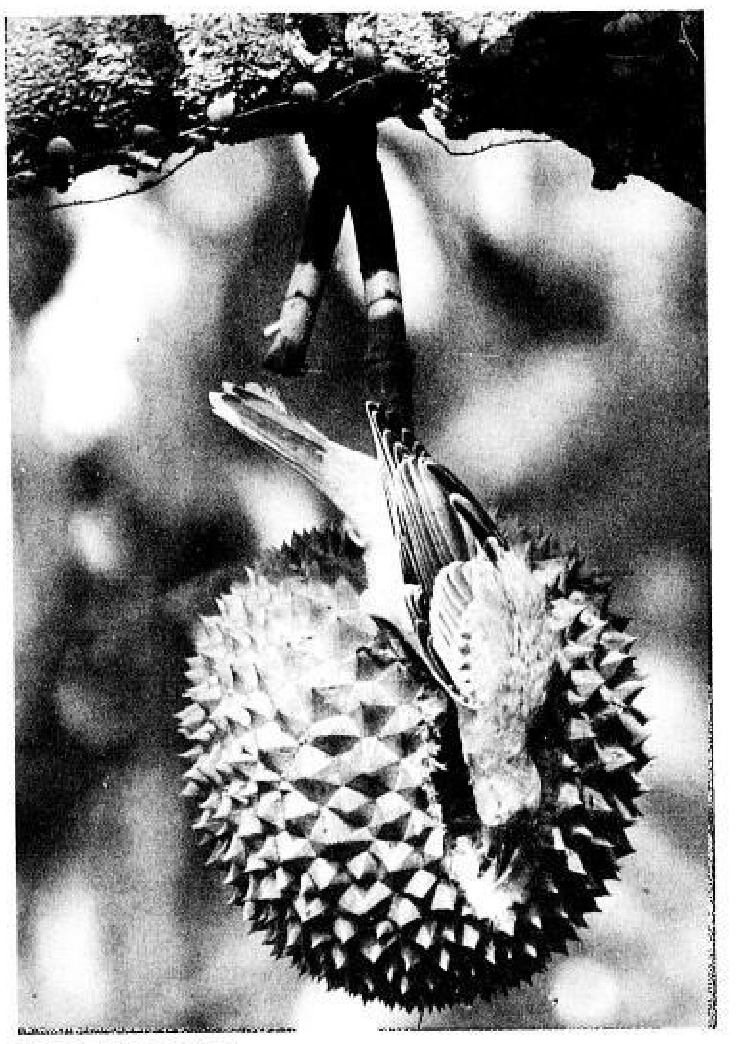
While oil-rich Saudi Arabia has never been a large recipient of US aid, the Bush administration channeled a total of more than $2.5 million to the kingdom in fiscal 2005 and 2006 as part of their partnership in the war on terror, congressional officials said.

Neither Saudi diplomats nor administration officials have publicly commented on the vote.

However, the sponsors of the amendment made it clear they were particularly upset by what they described as Saudi Arabia's support for the militant Palestinian group Hamas, which refuses to recognize Israel and has just taken control of the Gaza Strip.

In a fact sheet released to the media, the lawmakers pointed out that Hamas was receiving more than 50 percent of its financing from Saudi Arabia, and last May alone, the Saudi government planned to send $300 million to the Islamist group.

Representative Weiner charged that Riyadh was in fact actively working against US interests. *AFP*



TASTY MORSEL

A bird feeds on a durian fruit near Kuala Lumpur June 24. REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

Top official of Hamas rebuffed over talks

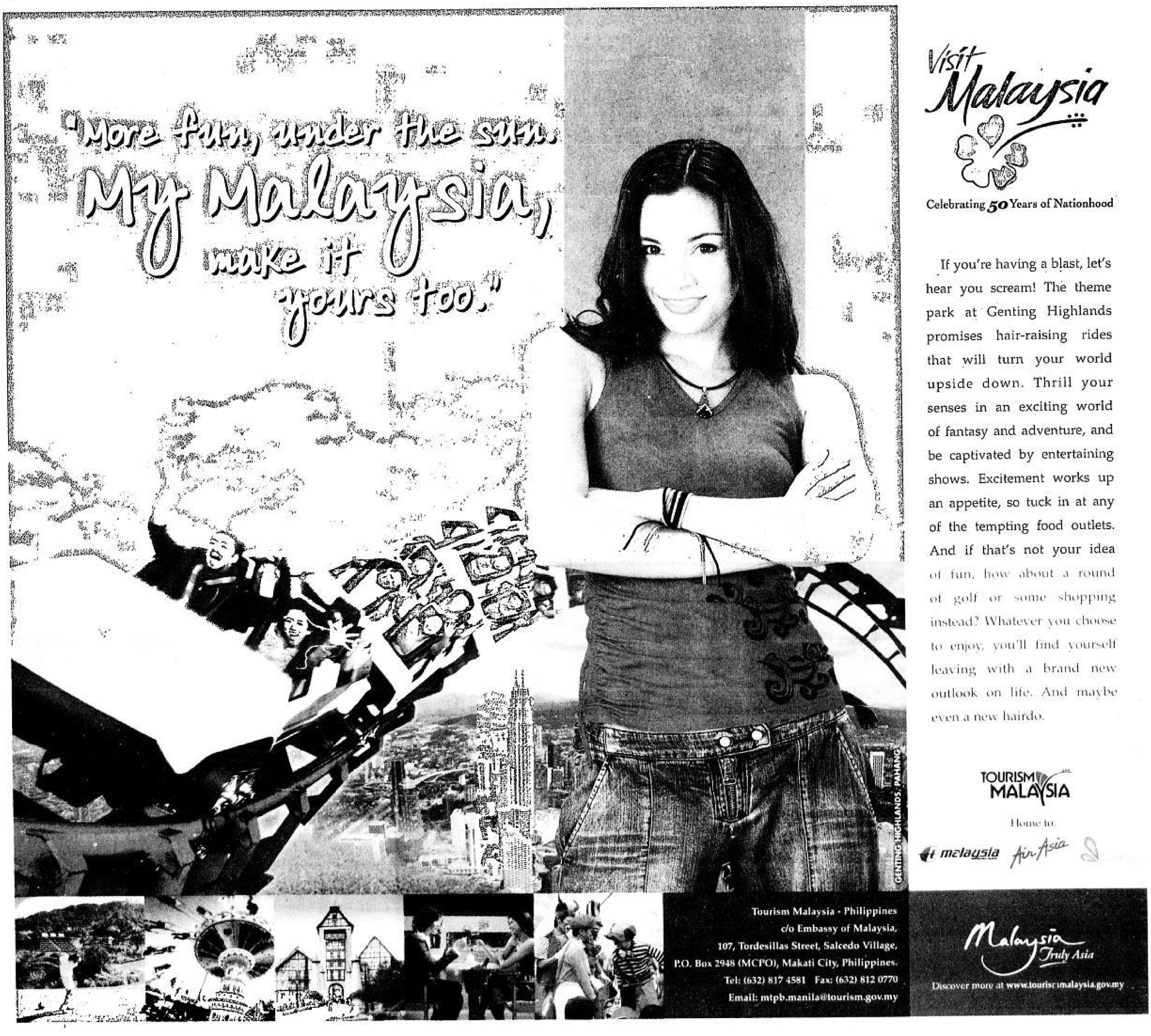
JERUSALEM—A top leader of Hamas, which last week routed its rival, Fatah, from Gaza, called Saturday for talks to re-form a power-sharing Palestinian government. But Fatah leaders, looking forward to a meeting of regional leaders on Monday that excludes Hamas, rebuffed the offer. "There will be no dialogue with Hamas," Reuters quoted Hussein al-Sheikh, a senior Fatah official, as saying. The Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, who will play host to the meeting, condemned Hamas in strong terms for staging a "coup" that left it in control of Gaza and Fatah contained to the West Bank, in fighting that has effectively split Palestinians into two geographic entities. "I reiterate Egypt's support for the Palestinian National Authority, and its president, Mahmoud Abbas," he said. The rebuff and Mubarak's statements seemed yet more evidence of a united strategy, among Arab and Western governments, along with Israel, to alienate Hamas, the Islamic militant group that won Palestinian elections last year, and to bolster Abbas and Fatah, which is secular but also often accused of deep corruption. *NYT*

Rushdie death fatwa still stands, says Iran

TEHRAN—Iran said on Sunday that a fatwa ordering the death of British writer Salman Rushdie issued by its revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini still stands after his knighthood by the queen. "The stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to this issue has not changed from what was put forward by the Imam Khomeini," foreign ministry spokesperson Mohammad Ali Hosseini told reporters. The Indian-born Rushdie, 59, was forced to go into hiding for a decade after Khomeini issued the 1989 death sentence over his book "The Satanic Verses," saying it insulted Islam. Khomeini's successor as supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said in January 2005 he still believed the British novelist was an apostate whose killing would be authorized by Islam. *AFP*

8 more US troops killed on a bloody day in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Eight more US troops died in Iraq on Saturday, mostly in roadside bombings in Baghdad, as the American military battled suspected al-Qaida insurgents in other parts of the country. On Saturday, the military reported deaths of eight troops, including four in a single roadside bomb attack near their vehicle northwest of Baghdad during combat and in which their Iraqi interpreter was wounded. An airman and three other soldiers were also reported dead on Saturday, taking US losses this month alone to 68, with 3,545 servicemen killed since the March 2003 invasion, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures. *AFP*



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*Journal of the American Medical Association, May 2007

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Saddam cousin 'Chemical Ali' to be hanged for genocide

BAGHDAD—AN IRAQI COURT ON SUNDAY SENtenced "Chemical Ali," one of Saddam Hussein's notorious former henchmen, to death by hanging for genocide over the mass killing of tens of thousands of Kurds in 1988.

Another two defendants were also given the death penalty by the Iraqi High Tribunal over the brutal military campaign known as Anfal in northern Iraq in which nearly 3,000 villages were razed to the ground and 182,000 Kurds killed.

Ali Hassan al-Majid, a cousin of the executed former dictator and widely known as "Chemical Ali" for ordering chemical gas strikes against Kurdish villages, was the final defendant to learn his fate.

HASSAN al-Majid, aka "Chemical Ali," in Jan. 8 photo. AP

He stood before the judge in silence as he was sentenced to death for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes by Iraq's High Tribunal but later declared "Thanks be to God" as he was led out of the courtroom.

Sultan Hashim al-Tai, a defense minister under Saddam who headed "Task Force Anfal" and reported directly to Chemical Ali, was sentenced to death on the same charges.

"I will not say anything new but I will leave you to God. I'm innocent," he said as he left the courtroom.

Hussein Rashid al-Tikriti, former Iraqi armed forces deputy chief of operations, was also sentenced to death.

Farhan al-Juburi, a former military intelligence commander and Sabir al-Duri, former director of military intelligence, were both sentenced to life in prison.

All charges were dropped against Taher al-Ani, former governor of the main northern city of Mosul, because of a lack of evidence.

The case related to the Anfal (Spoils of War) campaign against the Kurds in the late 1980s when the Iran-Iraq war was at its peak.

Saddam, driven from power by a US-led invasion in April 2003, was executed last Dec. 30 for crimes against humanity in a separate case and charges over the Anfal campaign dropped.

Over the course of the trial, which opened on Aug. '21 last year, a defiant Majid said he was right to order the attacks.

"I am the one who gave orders to the army to demolish villages and relocate the villagers," he said at one hearing. "The army was responsible to carry out those orders."

In a sometimes belligerent tone, Majid said he was not defending his actions. "I am not defending myself. I am not apologizing. I did not make a mistake," he told chief judge Mohammed al-Oreibi al-Khalifah.

Since the execution of Saddam, Majid emerged as the star defendant in the trial and took the front seat in the dock previously occupied by the former dictator.

Ahead of the judgment, the defense team approached the United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon to stop the trial which it said was marred by "errors."

"I appeal to the UN Secretary General to quickly intervene and save the six accused from execution in the Anfal trial," lead defense lawyer Khalil al-Dulaimi said in a statement released in Amman. *AFP*

Get out of town: Paris Hilton about to be freed

LOS ANGELES—SICK AND TIRED of hearing about Paris Hilton? Then pack your suitcase and head for a desert island because America's most famous celebrity inmate is about to be a free woman again.

After a brief lull in headlines following her early release and dramatic re-imprisonment on June 8, the media circus that surrounds Hilton will hurtle into overdrive once more when inmate 9818783 is released here Tuesday.

Hilton, a one-woman pop culture phenomenon, said in an interview from behind bars at the Los Angeles Century Regional Detention Facility this week that she will emerge from incarceration a changed woman.

"I just can't wait to see my family and have a nice meal and be in my own bed and appreciate all the things I took for granted and never really thought much about," she told the E! News entertainment television show.

"In a way, I'm really glad this happened because it changed my life forever," said Hilton, who was jailed for violating probation in an alcohol-related driving offense.

"I just realize that the media used me to make fun of and be mean about. Frankly, I'm sick of it. I want to use my fame in a good way."

But whether Hilton's desire for a more simple life will lead to fewer appearances in the media spotlight remains doubtful, experts say.

"If you want to not hear about Paris Hilton then you should try and find the island where those people on the television show 'Lost' are trapped," said Robert Thompson, a professor in pop culture at the University of Syracuse.

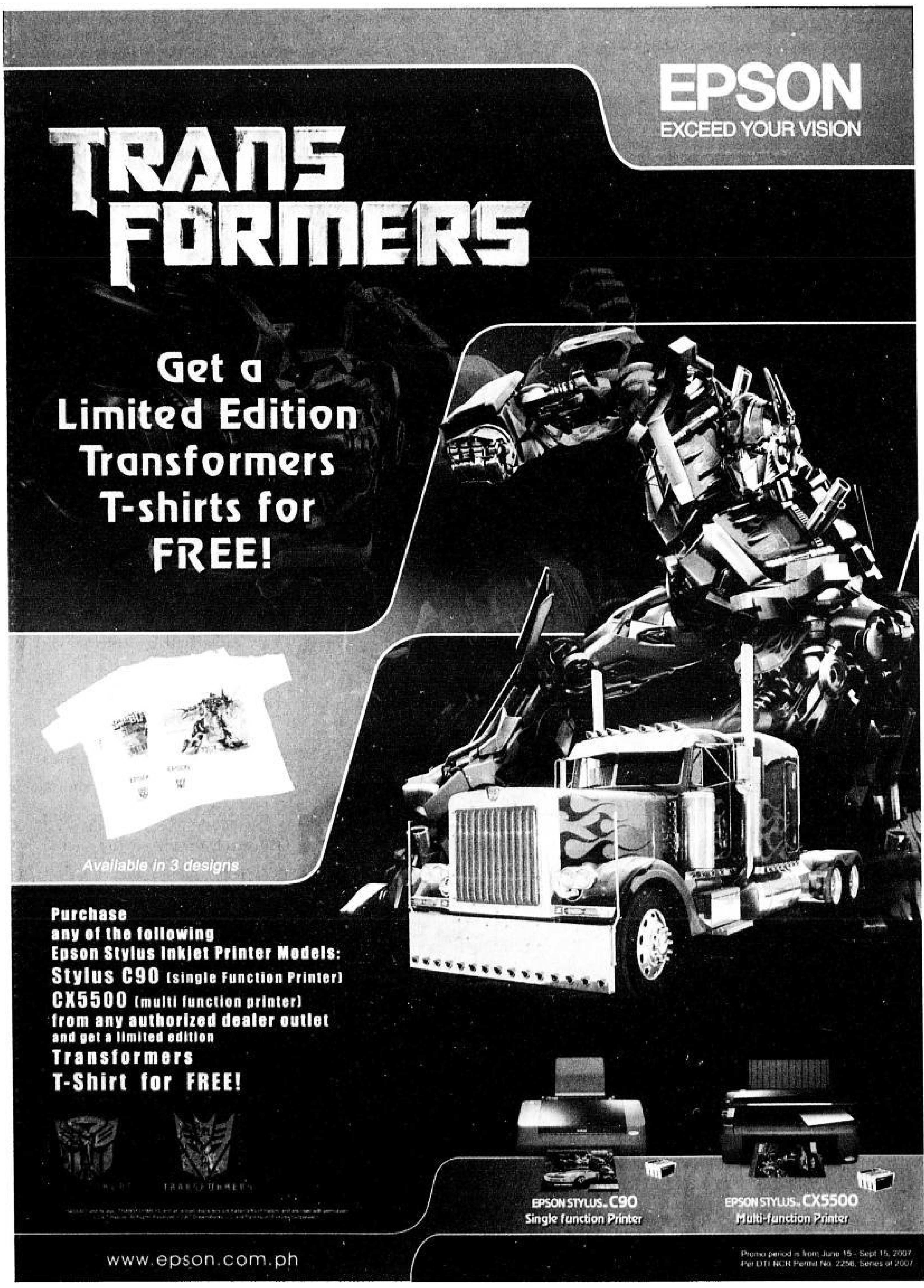
HILTON AFP

"Because even if you're in outer space there are going to be interviews and stories beaming out from the planet in every direction.... No-one is safe from this stuff."

CNN television confirmed Saturday that its veteran newsman Larry King had won the race to secure the first Hilton post-prison interview.

A CNN spokesperson said King would interview Hilton in a one-hour special on Wednesday, just 24 hours after the hotel heiress is released from prison.

She will not receive payment for the interview. *AFP*



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WHAT'S INSIDE

La Salle, UST spikers nail playoff slots/A28

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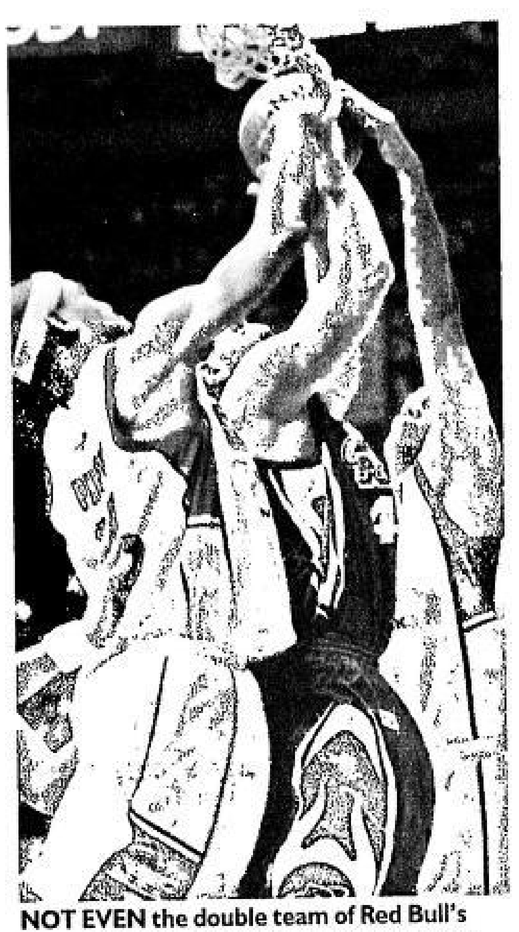


NOT EVEN the double team of Red Bull's James Penny (left) and Rich Alvarez (right) could stop Talk 'N Text import JJ Sullinger from exploding. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Alaska vs San Miguel Beer
7:20 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk 'N Text

By June Navarro

JJ SULLINGER JOINED FORCES with Mac Cardona for the second game in a row as the Phone Pals subdued the Red Bull Barakos, 106-98, in Game 3 of the Talk N Text-PBA Fiesta Conference best-of-seven semifinal series last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cardona erupted for 28 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to register his first career double-double while the ever-reliable Sullinger compiled 31 points and 12 rebounds as the Phone Pals took a 2-1 edge in the best-of-seven semifinal series.

"[We knew] from the start that Mac (Cardona) would be one of the guys who will carry us," said Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren of his dependable wingman.

"There's no room for him to have an off-night. He should play consistently because we don't have anybody on the bench who can replace him," he added.

Cardona was up to the task and almost replicated his 34-point output in Game 2 when the former Dela Salle University standout poured 16 of his points in final half, 11 of them during Talk 'N Text's scoring onslaught in the third.

San Miguel Beer avoided falling into a deep hole where no team has ever came back from after defeating Alaska, 91-81, in the other game.

Galen Young scored 22 points and Danny Ildefonso came off the bench with 18 points, six of them in the closing minutes as the Beermen trimmed the gap, 2-1, in their best-of-seven semifinal series.

The scores:

TALK 'N TEXT 106—Sullinger 31, Cardona 28, Washington 15, Carey 10, Belano 8, Billones 6, Allado 6, De Ocampo 2, Fran 0

RED BULL 98—Valenzuela 22, Najorda 16, Penny 15, Baguio 10, Hrabak 10, Fonacier 7, Ybanez 5, Bugia 4, Cruz 3, Alvarez 2, Robinson 2, Camaso 2, Sharma 0

Quarters: 24-31, 52-54, 86-68, 106-98

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 91—Young 22, Ildefonso 18, Tenorio 16, Cablay 10, Gonzales 7, Villanueva 7, Calaguio 5, Wilson 4, Racela 2, Peña 0

ALASKA 81—Cortez 14, Ellis 14, Miller 12, Belasco 9, Thoss 8, Hugnatan 8, Ferriols 8, Cariaso 6, Laure 2

Quarters: 19-24, 41-42, 63-61, 91-81

SBP mulls regional training centers

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE SAMAHANG BASKETBOL NG Pilipinas turns its attention to Visayas and Mindanao as the national program for the men, women and youth teams begins to roll out this month.

"A plan is in place to put up the first ever training center in the Visayas and Mindanao for potential men and wom en athletes," BAP-SBP executive director Patrick Gregorio said yesterday.

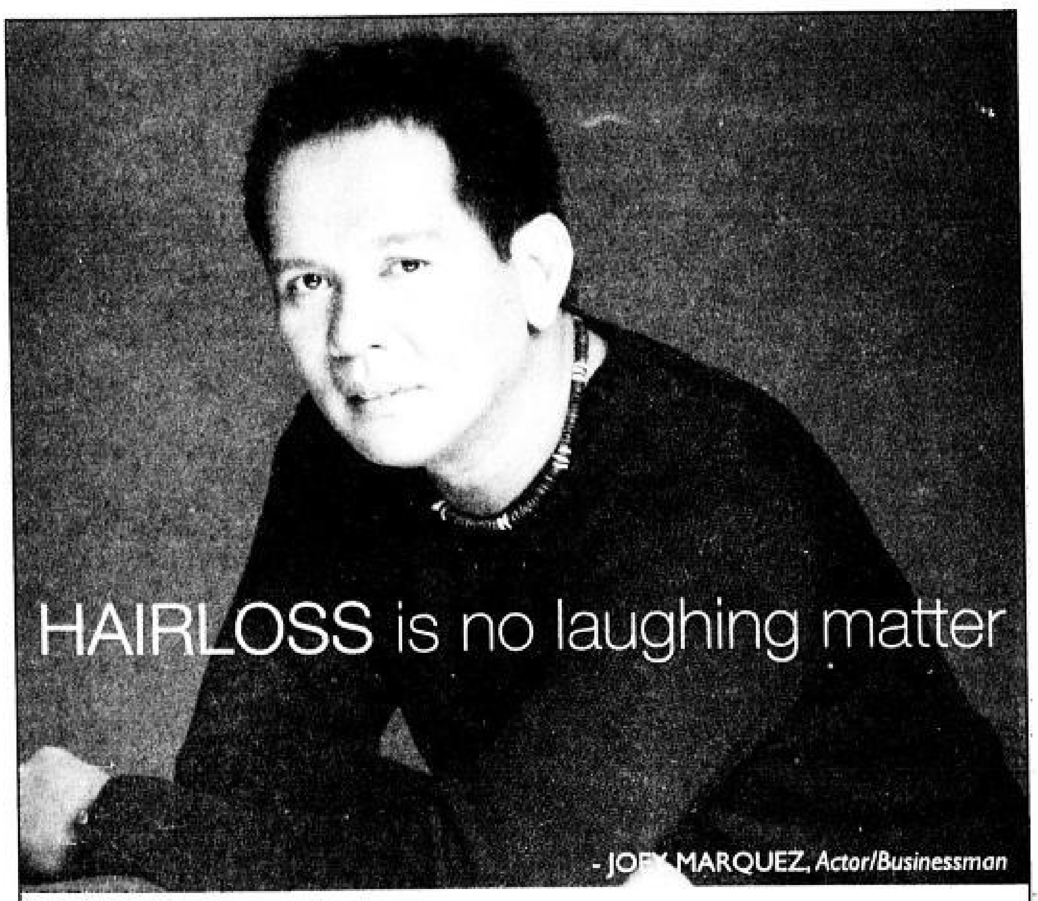
"We're introducing a national program for the age groups for the men and women basketball teams. We're identifying regional heads who will spearhead the development of the youth teams in the Visayas and Mindanao."

And this early, among the early projects eyed for the youth program is 19-year-old Gregory Fuentes-Slaughter, a 6-foot-11 Fil-American rookie from the University of the Visayas.

"He's young and will train under Mon Fernandez for the youth team; he's too young for the SEA Games," said national coach Junel Baculi.

Fritz Gaston, the head coach of Ateneo's UAAP championship run in 1988, will be Baculi's counterpart in the SEAG women's competition.

Gregorio said Fernandez, the four-time PBA Most Valuable Player now based in Cebu, will be among the key personalities in the development of the national program in the southern region.



HAIRLOSS is no laughing matter
- JOEY MARQUEZ, Actor/Businessman

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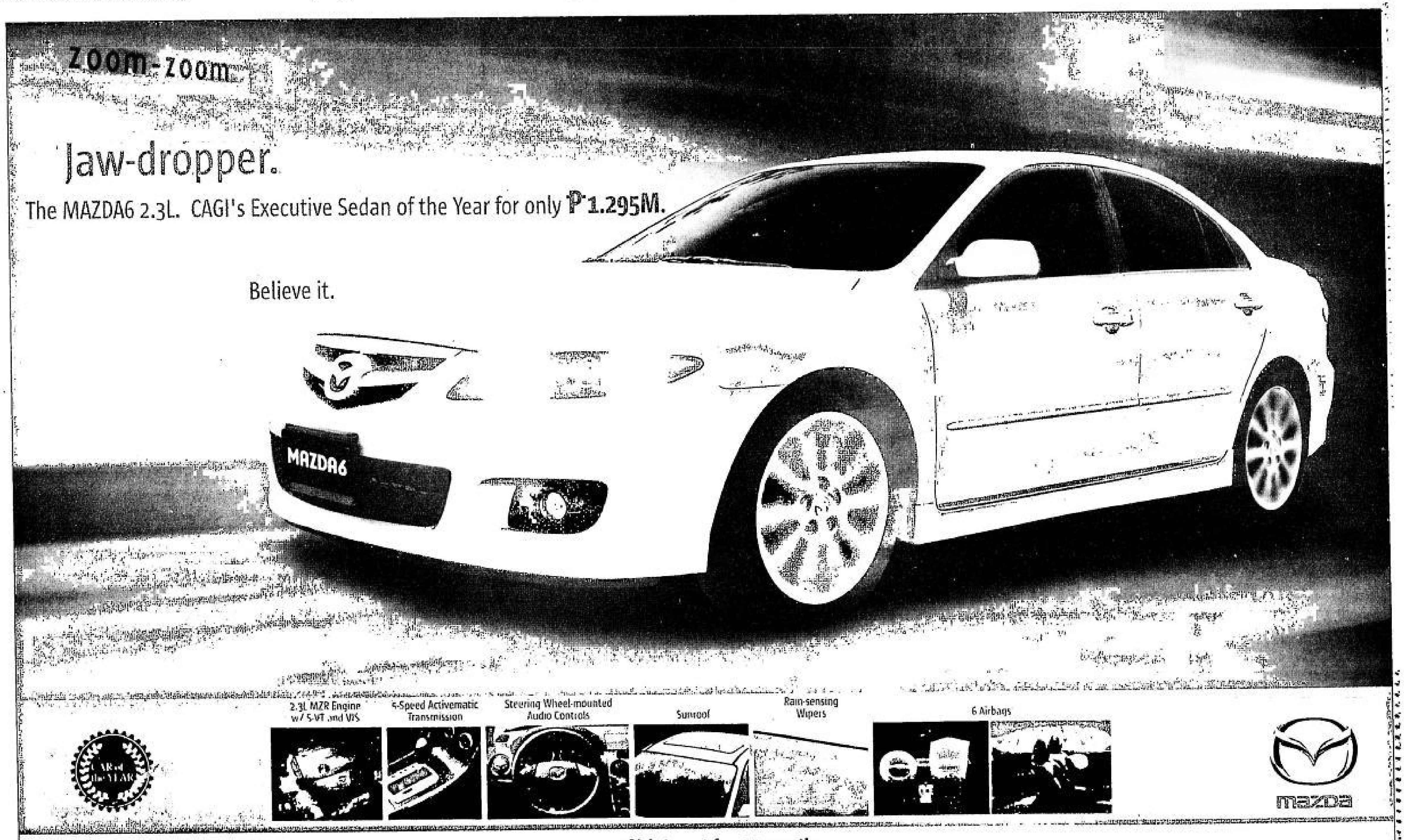

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Ibarra hits 'TC' trail with win

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—NEVER PRESSED BUT unrelenting just the same, Ibarra yesterday ran down the JV Ongpin Cup field in a performance that all but announced the arrival of the new Philippine Triple Crown champion.

The outstanding choice showed too much class in ruling the second leg of the series at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here, prevailing by over four lengths over Es Twenty Six in record-equaling style despite little pressure from rider Antonio Alcasid.

That moved the son of Yonaguska out of Fire Down Below within another win of becoming only the ninth horse ever to sweep the Triple Crown and the first to pull off the trick since Silver Story six years ago.

And from the way he performed over 1,750 meters under Alcasid's splendid handling—and barring any major injuries in the next month—there seems to be no stopping the massive colt from doing so.

"I will just hope for the best," owner Benhur Abalos told the INQUIRER when asked if he would dare proclaim Ibarra as the new TC champion. "Anything can happen in 2,000 (meters, distance of the third leg).

"I have a great horse, a great trainer, the perfect jockey and a good training program," the newly elected Mandaluyong mayor said.

Alcasid just missed winning the two stakes events in the program as Hermie Esguerra's Ididitmyway, under Jonathan Hernandez, nipped Superamerica by a neck for the Hopeful Stakes trophy later in the night.

The black colt Ibarra won in wire-to-wire style, doing an impressive 10', 22', 24', 24' before coming home in an explosive 26 seconds for a time of 1 minute and 48 seconds that tied Real Spicy's all-comers' mark.

And more than the P1.8 million that went with the win, Ibarra lined himself up to join an elite cast of Triple Crown winners.

UST, La Salle spikers nail playoff slots

GAMES TOMORROW (*The Arena*)
2 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Lyceum
4 p.m.—La Salle vs UST

By Romina S. Austria

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS and De La Salle University thwarted separate opponents yesterday to clinch playoff berths for the second finals slot in the Shakey's V League women's volleyball tournament at The Arena in San Juan City.

UST tripped Lyceum, 25-19, 25-18, 25-23, to tie its victim and idle San Sebastian for the lead at 7-3.

In the main match, La Salle denied arch rival Ateneo a graceful exit with a 25-19, 25-19, 25-15 victory to raise its slate to 6-4.

Ateneo ended its campaign with a 3-8 card as it dropped all its four semis games and seventh straight overall since the elimination round.

Both the Tigresses and the Lady Archers are unbeaten in three semifinal matches, qualifying them for the league's 3-of-4 incentive which awards a playoff slot for the second championship seat to the team that wins three out of its four semis assignments.

More importantly for the Tigresses, the win gave them a chance to book an outright finals ticket if they beat the Lady Archers tomorrow and their quotient emerges higher than the winner between San Sebastian and Lyceum.

However, a UST loss to La Salle will send the San Sebastian-Lyceum game winner, also slated tomorrow, to the finals while the loser waits for the winner of the UST-La Salle playoff to determine the other finalist.

The league will employ the new international volleyball federation (FIVB) quotient system rule which takes into account all the team's won set scores since the elimination, not just the games involving the tied squads.

MIKASA
SALAK
UST

UST'S Liliet Mabbayad (right) battles Lyceum's Cristina Salak at the net. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Koreans rule Eagle Ridge event

KOREAN EXPATRIATES RULED FIVE of the seven divisions and took nine of the 21 trophies disputed recently in the members' monthly tournament of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

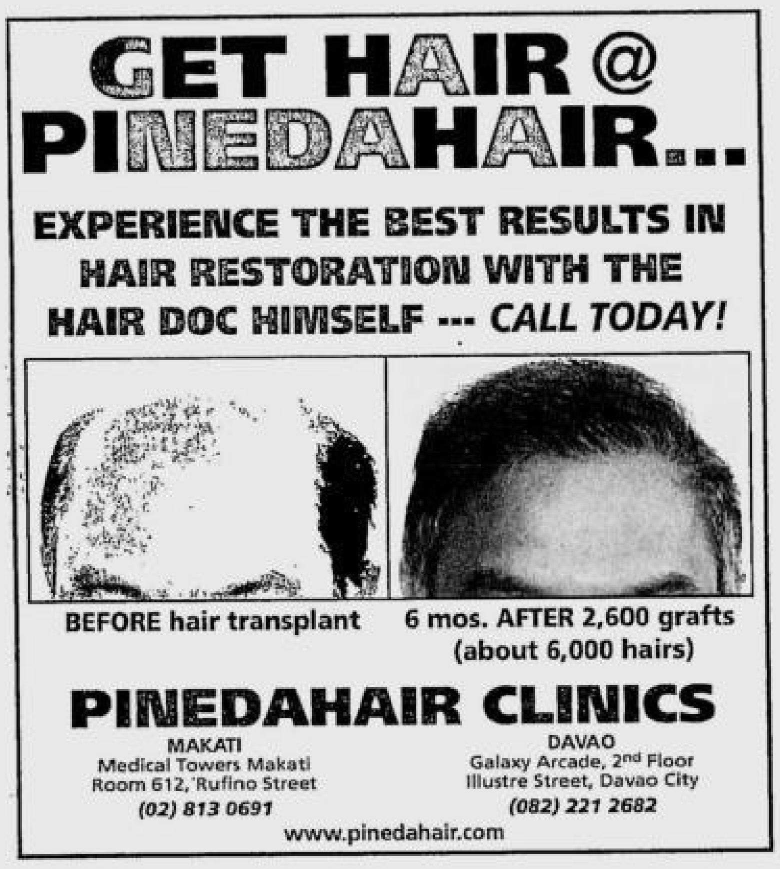
Hector Villanueva and Ruperto Pangilinan gained some measure of pride for local members by ruling Class D and the Senior A category of the event which drew a record field of 241 players.

At the Aoki course, Villanueva's net 63 on a gross of 94 got him past Korean Kim Guk Bin by three strokes while Pangilinan was the top senior after a net 62 on a gross of 91, beating Mike Ilano by five.

There was no stopping the Korean juggernaut in the other divisions with Kim Chong Inn (67) topping Class A at the Norman course, Kim Seong In (65) ruling Class B and Kim Nam Kyu (60) winning Class C at the Norman layout.

Callaway allowed Eagle members to try its new series of hi-technology drivers via a special driving contest at Aoki No. 11 and Norman No. 5. Rurik Santos stole the limelight by beating Norman Tugot in the seniors duel.

Eagle Ridge general manager Buddy Resurreccion said the support of equipment suppliers have resulted to a steady increase in participation among members in their monthly tourneys. For inquiries, call 046-4192841 or 7424265.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Mendoza duathlon king anew

MARIANNA Mohammed (right) and Analiza Dysangco try to outrun each other in the initial run leg of the duathlon.

By Jasmine W. Payo

CLARK—RYAN MENDOZA FAILED TO MEET his own standards but still ended up dominating the 2007 National Duathlon Championship to rule the event for the sixth straight time.

Mendoza quickly assumed control in the initial run leg to rule in one hour, 56 minutes and 38 seconds yesterday inside the Clark Special Economic Zone here in Pampanga

"I started fast in my first run and came out fast again in the bike," Mendoza said in Filipino. "In the last 5K, I just maintained my lead. I didn't really push, but it was still race-pace."

The 30-year-old Mendoza finished over five minutes ahead of the pack despite adding a couple more minutes from his personal best record of 1:54 in the 10K run-40K bike-5K run sport.

National team member Augusto Benedicto finished second at 2:02:07.

In the female division, a Malaysian mother wiped out the national women's team as Marianna Mohammed reigned with a time of 2:22:33.

Analiza Dysangco, the youngest national team member, was the best local finisher at 2:24:19.

NCAA bars Perpetual 'import'

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena*)
12 nn—Letran vs St. Benilde (jrs)
1:30 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Perpetual (jrs)
3 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs San Beda (jrs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NCAA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE yesterday decided not to allow Perpetual to employ 6-foot-9 Indonesian Thoyib Isman after he was found to have played in a commercial league back home.

Mancom chief Paul Supan of the Jose Rizal University said the Basketball Association of Indonesia has confirmed that Isman did play for the Indonesia Basketball League, a commercial league equivalent to that of the PBL.

NCAA rules disallow players who had previous stints in commercial league.

Perpetual coach Bai Cristobal said they might appeal the case considering that Indonesia has no other league but the IBL which also takes the place of a collegiate loop.

"There is no malice on our part," said Cristobal whose charges lost to San Sebastian, 59-56, in Saturday's opening day third game.

SPORTSWATCH

Mandaluyong squads gain finals

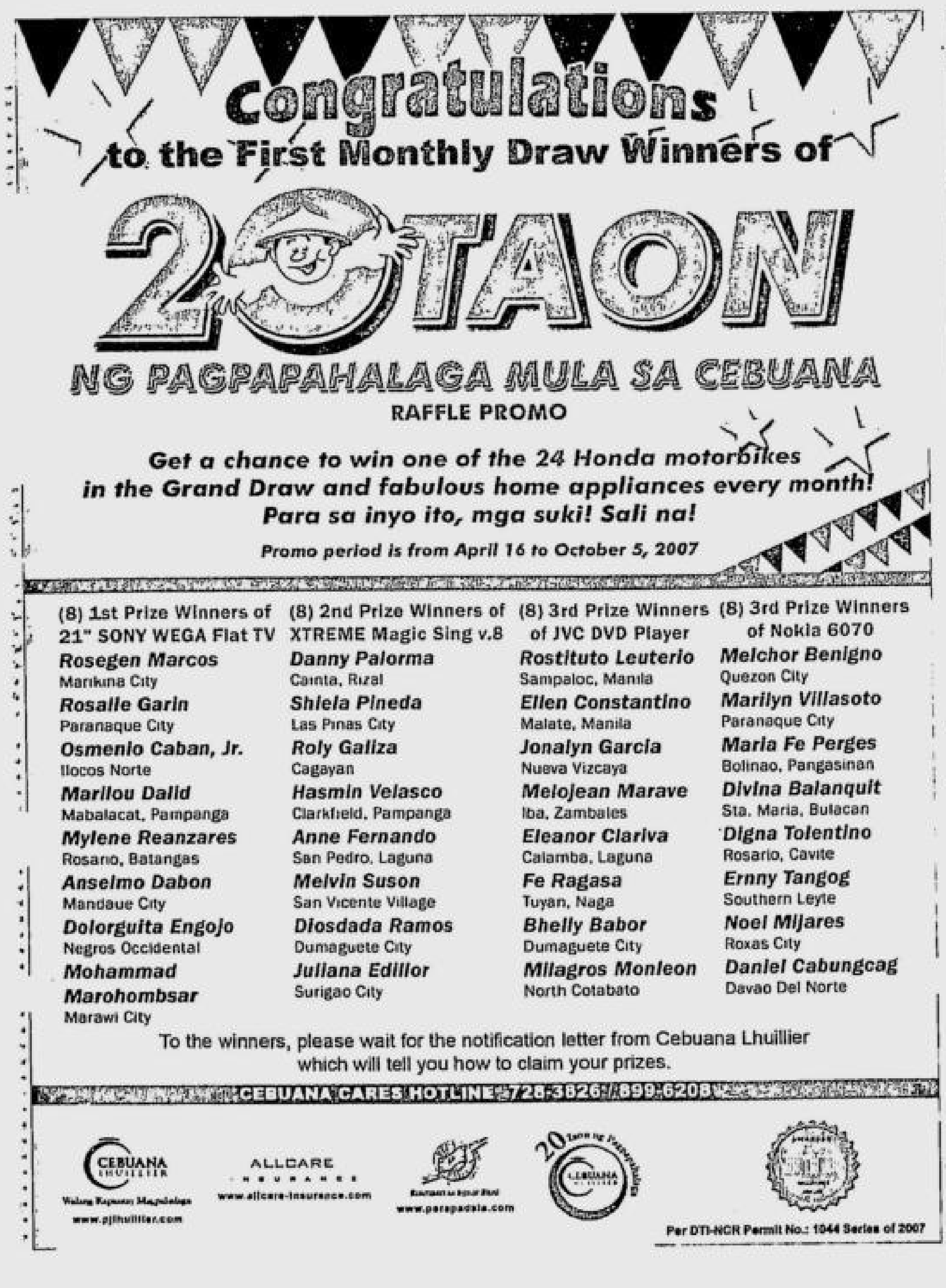
MANDALUYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB-A DOWNED Mandaluyong Tennis Club, 2-1, yesterday to advance in the men's final of the 6th Sen. Neptali Gonzales Invitational Team Tennis Championships at the MLTC court. MLTC-A will meet Hillsborough, which scored a 2-1 victory over PCA-SENO in the other semifinal match of the event supported by Wilson, Coca-Cola, Prince, Mizuno and Budget Driving School. In the ladies division, MLTC defeated Celebrity Tennis Club, 2-1, to forge a title showdown with Whirlpool Tennis Club, which prevailed over PCA-SENO, 3-0.

23 entries lead CFCC derby

THE THIRD DAY OF COMPETITION IN "ITAKTAK MO" 5-cock derby gets going at the Cainta Fair Center Coliseum at 5 p.m. today, Monday, with 60 matches on tap. Twenty-three entries have already posted two wins each after two rounds. The fourth round eliminations (2-cock) and finals (3-cock) will be held on Wednesday and Friday respectively. As of yesterday, more than 200 entries have already registered, said host Ronnie Lacsina, who has the backing of the United Backyard Breeders Association and promoters Bubut Gavino, Bong Yang Sam and Oliver. For inquiries: 655-3334, 240-2979 or 0918-900 1411.

Super Twins cockfight slated

LEADING COCKERS OF METRO MANILA FACE OFF in the Super Twins 4-cock derby at the San Juan Coliseum at 6 p.m. Setting out as favorites today are the entries of Louie Cua, Boy de Roca, Eric dela Rosa, Patrick Antonio, Butchoy Olano, Roger Segismundo, Emil Chua, Hermie Rivera, Milky Wings group, Boy de Castro, Mario Garcia, Pete Rivera among others. The champions of the 50-fight event backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 will recieve P300,000, said hosts Maan and Maricar Gonzaga. Interested parties may call 725-5369. Meanwhile, SJC's Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan series resumes on Friday, June 29 with P100,000 at stake and with Ed Guevarra as host. Likewise, Pol Estrellado of Laguna, recent winner as 2007 GCAP Cocker of the Year, will host a 5-cock derby on July 4.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Marilou Dalid Mabalacat, Pampanga	*Hasmin Velasco* Clarkfield, Pampanga	*Melojean Marave* Iba, Zambales	*Divina Balanquit* Sta. Maria, Bulacan
Mylene Reanzares Rosario, Batangas	*Anne Fernando* San Pedro, Laguna	*Eleanor Clariva* Calamba, Laguna	*Digna Tolentino* Rosario, Cavite
Anselmo Dabon Mandaue City	*Melvin Suson* San Vicente Village	*Fe Ragasa* Tuyan, Naga	*Ernny Tangog* Southern Leyte
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Pacquiao no longer good as advertised?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

REPORTING FROM THE SCENE, Bob Arum claimed Manny Pacquiao figured splendidly in a case deposition earlier this month.

It was not clear if Pacquiao used an interpreter to give his side on the promotional tussle Top Rank and Golden Boy Promotions are locked in.

Pacquiao, as Arum saw and heard, was a few points short of magnificent during the deposition.

Sorry, but that was only one side of the story.

The morning after Arum made that glowing claim, a respectable figure also present during Pacquiao's narration raised a howl.

Applause for the Filipino boxing idol was cut short after Golden Boy chief executive Richard Schaefer said Pacquiao lied through it all.

Schaefer, saying he was terribly disappointed, was aghast at how Pacquiao messed up with the truth.

***

A case mediation is in the works involving Top Rank and Golden Boy Promotions.

Arum had singled out Pacquiao's next foe, but the wily matchmaker could not make any announcement.

There's a gag order on both parties.

Okay, Pacquiao was not directly sued by Golden Boy despite having also signed up with Top Rank after earlier inking a seven-fight pact with the group headed by Oscar de la Hoya.

But as things stand, what follows in Pacquiao's career will not be decided on Arum's whims.

Pacquiao's fate lies on how the court will rule on the court battle between the rival promotional outfits.

***

Of course, there are incurable Pacman fanatics, including blind, willing close-in reporters, who would call it a win-win situation for the RP boxing icon.

In fact, as soon as Pacquiao returned from his latest US sojourn, he again made noise and announced he was ready and raring to make product endorsements.

There's a problem here, though.

Advertisers can no longer be expected to run and beat one another in hiring Pacquiao to sell their products.

There are those who, unlike before, now think twice before going the Pacman way.

***

No, we can't call this outright disenchantment.

It also has nothing to do with Pacquiao's decision to shelve earlier plans to take up law now that he's bent on improving his English with the hope of taking up a business course.

The truth is that there are those who no longer are as crazy as they used to be over Pacquiao.

In short, while they are willing to patronize him despite his faults and misdeeds, not too many fans are willing to play it blind and stupid when it comes to Pacquiao's questionable values and principles.

However, this definitely is not the case the way Ring Magazine, the bible of boxing, scores the Pacquiao career.

All Pacquiao needs at this point, according to Ring editor Nigel Collins, is win his next fight and he could officially overtake Floyd Mayweather as the magazine's pound-for-pound king.

In fact, Nigel was profuse with praise for Pacquiao and the way the Filipino superstar never fails to fire up a fight and provide unforgettable entertainment.

Collins, as quoted by Ronnie Nathanielsz, said Mayweather was way behind Pacquiao in this respect.

***

Now listen. Collins said he could not understand why many Filipinos have become critical of Pacquiao lately.

Collins noted that, unlike here in the Philippines, Pacquiao's misadventures outside the boxing ring have not detracted from his popularity in the USA.

"Sometimes Filipinos get too caught up in the periphery of events surrounding Pacquiao and forget what he does in the ring once the bell rings," Collins noted.

Well, Collins is sure to find great company in the Top Rank big boss.

Just like Arum, Collins can't seem to find anything wrong with Pacquiao, the idol of countless Filipinos who has also succeeded in projecting his poor countrymen as two-fisted cheats the way he collected and signed up with both Golden Boy and Top Rank.

Who knows? The way Collins wanted Pacquiao blindly adored here, the Ring editor could be trying to export dirty American war values to the Philippines.

Ailing Peña pulls out of China AF3

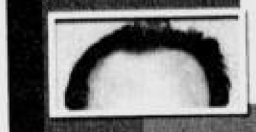
ZHUHAI, CHINA—AN AILING DADO PEÑA pulled out of the Asian Formula Three Pacific Series Saturday and returned to Manila just hours after logging the fourth-fastest time in the qualifying race for Round 11 at the Zhuhai International Circuit here.

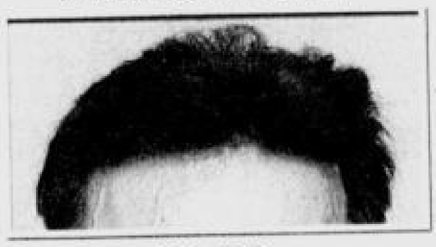
Peña, 19, had suffered food poisoning after eating a chicken sandwich bought from a fast food chain, forcing him to miss Friday afternoon's practice session. He showed up looking fine Saturday and even took fourth spot on the grid in the qualifying race, but driving under the searing heat took its toll.

Complaining of stomach pain and lightheadedness, Peña was examined by doctors here but he refused to be confined in a hospital, choosing instead to return to the Philippines. JA Motorsport staff escorted him to Hong Kong where he boarded a Cathay Pacific flight and was expected to arrive in Manila before midnight.

He said he may go straight to a clinic but preferred not to be admitted.

Peña, the only Filipino in the field, clocked a best lap of one minute and 39.089 seconds around the 4.3-km track.





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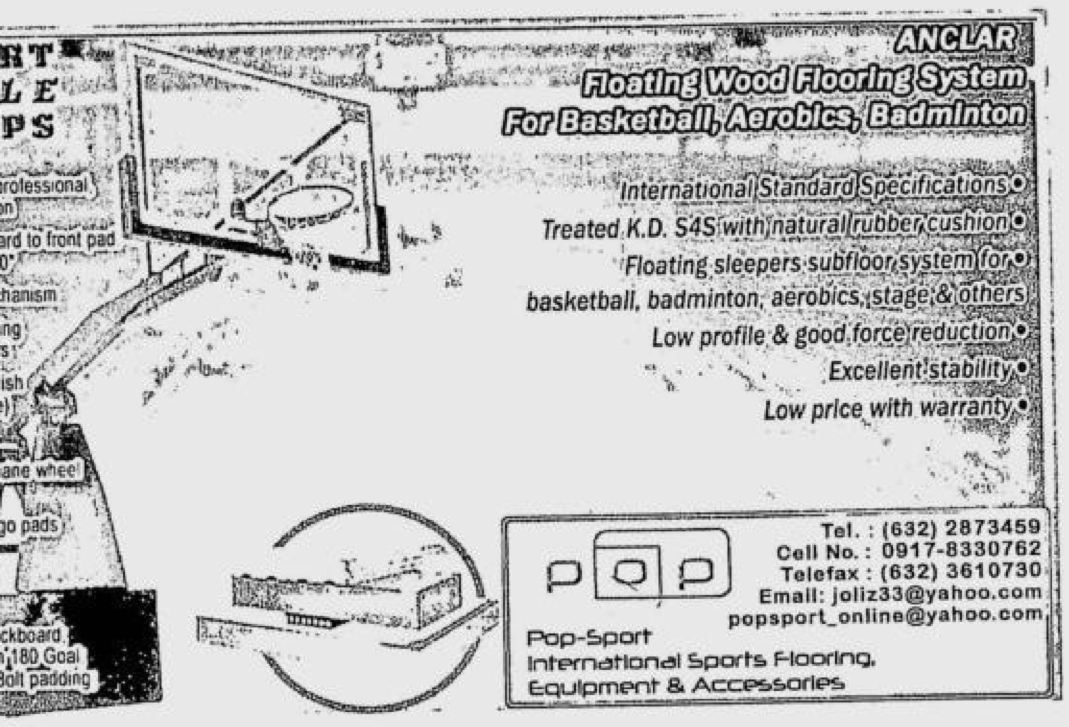

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MAKATI'S Chris Canlas slides at third base against Laguna's Mome de Juras yesterday. RODEL ROTONI

Negros in semis

Laguna tumbles despite victory

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LAGUNA GAVE ITS BEST SHOT TO SALVAGE a ride to the semifinals, drubbing Makati, 7-4, but still ended up by the wayside via the quotient system even as Negros routed Manila, 6-1, to qualify with its victim in the Baseball Philippines pilot tournament at the Rizal Memorial ballpark yesterday.

The Laguna Tigers piled up five runs on the top of the 7th inning to quell the Makati Mariners, who finished the eliminations with a 1-3 record in a triple tie for the third and fourth places of the semis along with Manila.

GAMES SUNDAY
(*Rizal Ballpark*)
9 a.m.—Negros vs Manila
1 p.m.—Cebu vs Makati

Counting the runs allowed among the three teams involved, Manila clinched the 3rd spot, while Makati took the fourth seat. The Manila Sharks thus face the No. 2 team Negros Roosters, while the Makati Mariners take on the No. 1 and unbeaten Cebu Dolphins in the crossover semis on Sunday.

Makat, which didn't use its ace Roel Batuto of the national team, held Laguna to a 2-2 count after six innings.

That's where the Tigers made their move, starting off when leadoff Chris Jimenez scored a run on a fastball error of catcher Wilfredo Hidalgo. Alejandro Velasquez made a double that drove in Rick Jimenez. And with two outs, Ernel Faustino belted pinch-runner Jeff Sinanggote, coming in for Velasquez, for single.

Denver Largo lined a grounder to the center double to score Faustino, before Saxon Omandac drove him home to give Laguna a 7-2 lead.

"We could have won this one, we just failed to control our errors," said Makati team manager Jeffrey Santiago. "But it's good that we made the semis. We are preparing for it, that's why I rested Batuto."

Jonjon Robles took the place of Batuto.

Earlier, RP team top pitcher Ernesto Binarao allowed eight hits in a no-relief effort for Negros. The Roosters came through with two runs each on the fifth and sixth innings to secure their third win in four games and the No. 2 slot in the semis.

Croc's meat prescribed for Dagmil

By June Navarro

A STEADY SERVING OF CROCODILE meat could help a long jumper soar to new heights.

American coach Chris Huffins swears by the effect of the queer diet that he has asked his apprentice, Filipino long jumper Henry Dagmil, to devour ounces of crocodile meat as part of his daily diet, reasoning that there's something in the aquatic reptile that allows it to jump to a protracted distance despite of its heavy weight.

"There must be something in that animal that makes it jump long when attacking a prey despite of its weight," Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco quoted Huffins as saying.

"Now, Dagmil's party are trying to find out where to get crocodile meat without infringing certain laws on the protection of animals."

Cojuangco said Huffins has already proposed an incentive scheme in case Dagmil captures a medal in the Beijing Olympics. Huffins is asking for a $10,000 (P450,000) bonus if his ward snares a gold medal and $5,000 (P225,000) for bronze.

Dagmil, in deep training in the US for the 2008 Beijing Games, almost made it to the medal podium of the Asian Games last year in Doha, Qatar, if not for a faulty jump on his last try.

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Lower power rates in ecozones pushed

Meralco says locators need to be more competitive

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-LED MANILA ELECTRIC CO. HAS URGED NAtional Power Corp. to charge lower power rates for economic zones to help locators become more competitive in the global market.

Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said the distribution utility had already given its big customers—or those with an average monthly demand of 750 kilowatts—the option to avail themselves of Napocor's time-of-use (TOU) rates under its Customer Choice Program (CCP).

The program would be more attractive, however, if Napocor could offer the participants rates that were even lower than the Energy Regulatory Commission-approved TOU rates.

He said Napocor could also come out with rates that were specially designed for ecozone locators—even those outside the Meralco franchise—to help make them compete better with locators in other countries.

"Inside ecozones, we're willing to consider rates even better than Napocor's TOU rates, if that will spur economic activity within these zones. We've asked Napocor to offer ecozone rates that are different from the TOU," he said.

He added that for ecozones within the Meralco franchise area, the power distributor was willing to reduce overall rates, as long as Napocor would offer it lower-than-TOU generation rates.

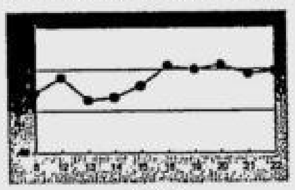
"We appeal to the (Department of Energy) and to Napocor to give us much better rates. We found out that we're paying more than other distribution utilities, even considering our size," he said.

"The advantage of smaller distribution utilities is that they sometimes get early payment discounts. (National Transmission Corp.) also delivers power right at the heart of the distribution utility at a lower voltage, so they don't have to step that down too much," he added.

He said that if it would be difficult to change the rates being offered to Meralco as a whole, maybe what could be al-

LOWER/ B1

INDICATORS



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STOCK MARKET

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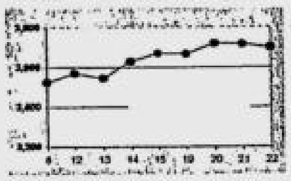

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Slower trading seen

THE STOCK MARKET IS EXPECTED TO sober up this week after euphoric highs last week, according to analysts and fund managers.

"Investors may lock-in gains ahead of upcoming initial public offerings in the coming

SLOWER/ B5

IN THIS ISSUE
■ **Aboitiz power project** gets tax incentives /B3
■ **No Free Lunch:** Good news on jobs /B2

Gov't borrowings down 22.5%

By Michelle V. Remo

BORROWINGS UNDERTAKEN BY THE national government in January to May fell by 22.5 percent to P240.55 billion from P310 billion a year ago, documents from the Department of Finance showed.

The government uses its borrowings to plug the budget deficit, and the smaller gap this year compared to last year's explains the smaller amount of loans contracted during the first five months.

Of the borrowings from January to May, P204.69 billion were used to pay liabilities that fell due. This meant that 85 percent of the amount borrowed by the government went to settle old debts.

Also, P97.06 billion of the total borrowings in the first five months were sourced from foreign creditors while the bigger share of P143.49 billion were from domestic creditors.

The government has adopted the policy of borrowing more from local sources to reduce foreign-exchange risks.

GOV'T/ B8

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What are Floating Rate Corporate Bonds?
These bonds are the indebtedness or borrowings of private corporations like FMIC that has an interest rate that changes depending on the prevailing market interest rates. This "changing" or "floating" interest rate is "benchmarked" or based on a published interest rate like the Government's treasury bill rates. A floating rate bond normally has an interest rate that is an aggregate of the published treasury bill rate PLUS a certain premium.

2. Why invest in Floating Rate Corporate Bonds?
A floating rate bond protects the investor from interest rate volatility since it moves with the prevailing market rates. This is most beneficial to the investor during times of increasing interest rates like now

3. Who can purchase the Floating Rate Corporate Bonds?
Any individual or corporate entity can purchase the Bonds, subject to the submission and approval of the documents required by the Registrar.

4. How does an investor participate in the Public Offer?
The bonds will be offered within a given fixed period. During this, the investor simply calls an FMIC Marketing Officer to indicate a firm commitment to buy the bonds.

Participation is via the submission of (1) a fully filled-up Application to Purchase, (2) fully filled-up Investor Registration Form and Signature Card, and (3) required documents by the Registry i.e. photocopy of IDs for individuals, standard corporate documents for corporate buyers.

5. What is an investor's proof of ownership?
A confirmation of an investor's participation is evidenced by a Registry Confirmation issued by the Registrar. Upon acceptance of an Application to Purchase, a receiving copy shall be given to the investor while the Registry Confirmation is released by the Registrar within 7-10 working days from the issue date. The best evidence of ownership will be the registry book maintained by the Registrar.

6. Can the bonds be pre-terminated?
The bonds cannot be pre-terminated by the bondholders as per BSP regulations. However, investors can sell the Bonds in the secondary market through FMIC, as the Market Maker.

[Tagalog] Capable of doing. KAYA [Bahasa Malaysia] *Rich.*
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Good news on jobs

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

THE LATEST NEWS ON THE EMployment front gives us reason to be hopeful that the benefits of the spate of good economic news may be beginning to spread more widely.

According to the April 2007 Labor Force Survey, unemployment rate is now 7.4 percent—an improvement over both last year's (April 2006) 8.2 percent, and last January's 7.8 percent. This translates to 2.7 million jobless workers, which is down by about 200,000 from last year's 2.9 million jobless. Underemployment is also down to 18.9 percent or 6.4 million workers, from last year's 25.4 percent or 8.3 million workers.

Are we finally getting out of the "jobless growth" situation that we've been in for a number of years now? Is our recent economic growth in fact leading to more and better jobs for Filipino workers?

New jobs

I did some calculations from the still limited data available from the National Statistics Office (NSO) website, to get a more detailed picture of the jobs situation over the past year.

There were one million new jobs generated by the growing economy between April 2006 and April 2007. This time, the number exceeded the 761,000 new entrants to the labor force over the same period. This is a welcome change from most of our past experience, where new job creation had consistently failed to keep pace with the number of new jobseekers.

Part of the reason why there were fewer new jobseekers was the decline in labor force participation rate to 64.5 percent, from 64.8 percent a year ago. This translates to about 169,000 additional working-age (i.e., 15 years old and above) Filipinos who chose to stay out of the labor force, i.e., not look for jobs.

Frustrated jobseekers

I must clarify that under the controversial "new definition" of unemployment used by the government, these nonjobseekers include two kinds of people. The

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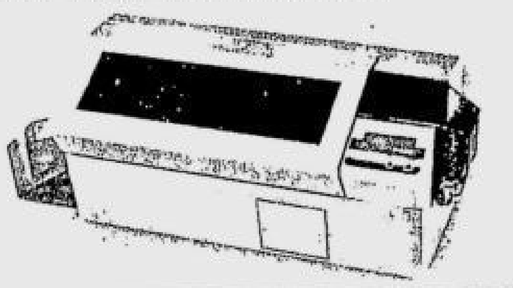

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SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

The disinformation campaign being waged by the detractors of businessman Cezar T. Quiambao and Strategic Alliance Development Corporation (STRADEC) is based on clear prevarication and erroneous conclusions.

1. The case filed by the Quiambao group in Pangasinan merely sought the nullification of the election of officers in a stockholders' meeting of STRADEC held in Pasig City on March 1, 2004; The nullification is based on the fact that meeting was not held in Bayambang, Pangasinan which is the principal office of STRADEC per its by-laws.

2. The trial court (RTC Pangasinan, Branch 145) after hearing the motion for injunction, and to prevent paralization of STRADEC's operations, ordered the holding of a Special Stockholders' Meeting in Bayambang on December 10, 2004. The officers elected in said meeting served whatever remained of the 2004-2005 term of said officers.

3. Since then, STRADEC has had three (3) valid regular Annual Stockholders' meetings for the 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 terms.

4. In all the said elections, all stockholders were notified seasonably and validly;

5. **The Yujuico and Sumbilla group tried to secure a restraining order to stop the last mentioned election but this request was flatly denied by the Supreme Court thereby confirming the election of said new set of officers.**

6. Mr. Cezar T. Quiambao is no longer chair of STRADEC having been replaced by former Justice Demetrio G. Demetria who was elected in March 2006 and re-elected in March 2007.

Clearly, the Supreme Court order nullifying the RTC order calling for special election did not have the effect of "ousting" Mr. Quiambao and other STRADEC officials elected in 2005, 2006 and 2007 elections. If Yujuico and Sumbilla won, the victory is pyrrhic since the case had long become moot and academic.

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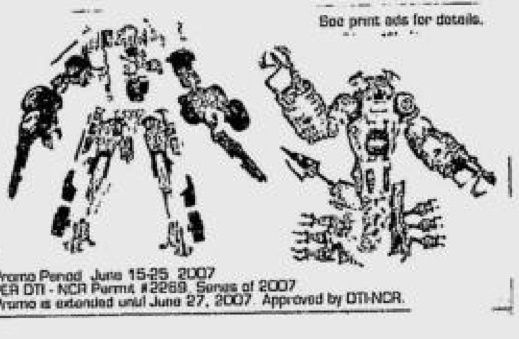

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Aboitiz power project gets tax incentives

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS has approved the granting of tax incentives to an Aboitiz group affiliate's P27.93-billion upgrading project of the 360-MW Magat hydro-power plant in Ramon, Isabela.

SN Aboitiz Power Inc. (SNAP), which is 40-percent Norwegian owned, won last January's bidding for the privatization of the Magat plant with its bid of $530 million.

A consortium of the Aboitiz group and SN Power Holdings Singapore Pte. Ltd., SBAP officially took possession of the facility last April 25.

Considered having one of the biggest generating capacities for hydro power plants, the Magat facility is made up of four identical 90-MW generating units, which use water from the Magat River to supply electricity to the Luzon grid.

Upon turnover of the asset from the state-owned Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., SNAP started operating the facility and intends immediate upgrading and rehabilitation of plant equipment to increase efficiency and output.

The company plans to trade some of the Magat plant's output on the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market as well as enter into bilateral supply contracts with electric cooperatives.

The Magat plant is designed as a peaking plant, which means it is run at times of the day when electricity consumption is at

ABOITIZ/B9

Nickel firm to start production in 2008

CANADIAN MINERAL exploration firm Mindoro Resources Ltd. announced it has significantly increased its target area for nickel production in its Agata project in the Surigao mining district following results from latest drilling samples.

Mindoro Resources said it now expects to mine over a period of three to five years between 50 and 60 wet metric tons a year of nickel laterite in the Agata project.

The company had initially defined an area that was expected to yield ores at a rate of 500,000 to 700,000 WMT a year.

"As a result of the encouraging drill results to date, as well as geological mapping of the extent of the northern laterite and the current high demand and prices for nickel and ferro-nickel feedstock, [we are] now evaluating the potential of the project, and enhanced value options via on-site or local processing alternatives," the firm said.

The newly defined exploration area includes 30 million to 35 million WMT of ores at a grade of 0.9 to 1.1 percent nickel and 40 to 44 percent iron-grades, which the firm said exceeded current requirements in the Asia-Pacific region for direct shipping grade ferro-nickel feedstock that is used to produce nickel-containing pig iron.

Also, the new exploration target includes mineralization with 20 million to 25 million WMT of ores at a grade of 1-1.4 percent nickel and 8-10 percent iron.

The target area covers 340 hectares where a total of over 90 drill holes have been completed so far.

Also, the company said the revised exploration target did not include areas where low-grade but commercially potential nickel ores were present.

Mindoro Resources said the new target would form the basis for evaluating several attractive value-added processing options, including constructing a local blast or electric furnace for nickel pig iron production.

Ronnel W. Domingo

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Promo extended until June 30, 2007

Model / Variant	SRP	LOW DOWNPAYMENT PLANS 15% DP	Monthly Amortization (60 mos.)	LOW MONTHLY INSTALLMENT PLANS 50% DP	Monthly Amortization (36 mos.)
CITY 1.3 AMT	P572,000	P85,800	P10,820	P286,000	P6,226
JAZZ 1.3 S MT	P650,000	P97,500	P12,679	P325,000	P7,459
CIVIC 1.8V MT	P777,000	P116,550	P15,157	P388,500	P8,916
ACCORD 2.4 VTi-L AT	P1,470,000	P220,500	P28,674	P735,000	P16,868
2007 CR-V 2.0 2WD MT	P1,190,000	P178,500	P23,213	P595,000	P13,655

*All plans are subject to bank approval (BPI Family Savings Bank and RCBC Savings Bank)

Approved by DTI-NCR Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2128 Series of 2007

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HONDA

GG&A Club Shares
SEC License Broker No.: BD-00131
Quotation as of June 25, 2007

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,150,000	1,080,000
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,300,000	1,150,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	570,000	550,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	270,000
CANLUBANG	470,000	430,000
CANYON WOODS	90,000	-
CAPITOL HILLS	40,000	-
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB	-	1,000,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	120,000	90,000
CLUB FILIPINO	90,000	80,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	250,000	-
EAGLERIDGE "C"	370,000	320,000
FOREST HILLS "A"	85,000	-
LUISITA GOLF "A"	350,000	270,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	200,000	180,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	220,000	-
MANILA GOLF (CORP)	-	19,000,000
MANILA GOLF (IND)	-	18,000,000
MANILA POLO	Please Call	3,800,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	290,000	270,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	700,000	630,000
MANILA YACHT CLUB	200,000	150,000
MIMOSA (IND)	230,000	-
MT. MALARAYAT GOLD "A"	170,000	-
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	170,000	160,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	280,000	250,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	350,000	300,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	170,000	140,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	300,000	230,000
SPA & LODGE	Please Call	550,000
STA. ELENA "A"	-	1,600,000
STA. ELENA "B"	2,200,000	-
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB	320,000	290,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	700,000	650,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	630,000
THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB "A"	360,000	330,000
VALLE VERDE (IND)	100,000	80,000
VALLEY GOLF	250,000	200,000
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	-	8,600,000

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SEC License Broker No.: A-17597
FREE PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE
As of June 25, 2007

SHARES AVAILABLE CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	Pls. Call	1,080,000/1,250,000*
Alta Vista A/B*/Corp.**	-	300,000/Pls. Call*
Baguio Country Club	600,000	550,000
Camp John Hay	330,000	280,000
Canlubang Golf	Pls. Call	430,000
Canyon Woods	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	1,700,000
Club Filipino	90,000	Pls. Call
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	160,000/Pls. Call*	140,000/200,000*
Eastridge A/B*	150,000*	80,000/130,000*
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	90,000	150,000*
Luisita Golf B	Pls. Call	350,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	18,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	18,000,000
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	3,500,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	300,000/Pls. Call*	250,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	200,000/230,000*	180,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	280,000	150,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	150,000	-
Mimosa C1/C2*/C3**	220,000/500,000**	180,000/280,000*
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/350,000**	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	170,000*/250,000**	130,000*/150,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	230,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/170,000*	100,000*
Splendido Taal	200,000	Pls. Call
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	1,500,000
The Palms Country Club	380,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	300,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	650,000
The Country Club	2,200,000	-
Tower Club A/B*	150,000/160,000*	-
Valley Golf	230,000	200,000
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	9,000,000	Pls. Call

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Lower ...

From page B1

tered were the rates being offered to ecozones—make these lower than the regular rates.

In a separate interview, Energy Undersecretary Melinda Ocampo said Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia de Lima was keen on bringing down power rates at the ecozones in Bataan, Cavite, Baguio and Cebu "right away."

"The plan of Peza is to implement (these lower rates) within the ecozones, including privately registered ecozones," she said. "We're now discussing this with Napocor."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 24, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCK	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12.5	13.25	12.5	13.25	203,300
71.5	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	71	71.5	71	71	271,000
73.5	43.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	72.5	72.5	71.5	71.5	230,500
935	630	China Banking Corp.	920	930	920	930	7,130
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	2,600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	9,880,000
75.5	30.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	73	75.5	73	74	33,252,300
65	32	Philippine National Bank	62	65	60	62.5	667,000
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	65	65	65	65	1,000
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	51	51	51	51	1,400
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	36.5	37	36	36	583,000
90	41	Security Bank Corp.	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5	29,800
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	63	63	63	63	56,500
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
3.81	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	136,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.44	6,285,000
11.5	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	11	11.5	11	11.5	729,900
1.04	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.04	0.98	0.99	1,300,000
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,660.00	1,660.00	1,660.00	1,660.00	320
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	3,801,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.95	3.1	2.95	3	601,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	860	880	855	855	16,190
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,110.00	2,110.00	2,110.00	2,110.00	2,040
1.94	1.2	iVantage Corp	1.88	1.9	1.84	1.84	1,931,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
67.5	41	First Gen Corp	66.5	67	66.5	66.5	3,382,900
88	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	87	88	86.5	87	1,746,300
12.75	7	Manila Water Co. Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.5	5,754,000
102	14	Manila Electric Co. "A"	99	100	99	99.5	380,000
104	20.5	Manila Electric Co. "B"	100	102	100	100	601,300
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	18,987,000
5.8	3.5	Petron Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	7,996,000
2.5	1.6	Salcon Power Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.26	2.26	40,000
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.66	1.66	1.62	1.64	1,239,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.7	283,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.3	2.34	1,246,000
2.75	1.24	CADP Group Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	12,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	10,000
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	55	55	54.5	55	31,400
7	4.6	Pancake House Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	100,000
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.6	1.72	2,578,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.46	2.48	2.46	2.46	466,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	69.5	71.5	69.5	71.5	204,500
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	75.5	77	75.5	77	2,981,500
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	500,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp	18.5	19	18.5	19	4,640,500
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.8	1.17	EEI Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	274,000
4.6	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.2	137,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.5	202,000
7	1.2	Republic Cement Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	6,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.8	2,327,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	877,000
2.5	2	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	10,000
1.4	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.36	1,211,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.43	0.06	Picop Resources Inc	0.4	0.41	0.38	0.39	78,600,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.7	A Soriano Corp	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.65	202,000
0.165	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.165	0.155	0.155	185,840,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.26	1.28	1.2	1.24	82,152,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3	3.2	2.75	2.8	7,862,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	50,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.013	0.014	0.012	0.013	438,200,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	161,500,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	8,369,000
0.019	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.019	0.016	0.019	1,742,700,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.3	15,688,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	1.32	1.38	1.24	1.26	3,846,000
1.5	0.085	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.12	1.16	299,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.65	2.65	3,725,000
5.6	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3.9	4.7	3.9	4.7	266,000
590	275	Ayala Corp.	575	580	570	570	83,040
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.75	4.8	4.7	4.7	286,000
5.4	0.99	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.1	5.2	5	5.1	7,868,000
9.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.9	9.2	8.9	9.2	891,000
2	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.96	1.96	1.9	1.9	166,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.7	2,433,000
3.55	1.14	House of Investments Inc.	3	3	3	3	165,000
14.5	5.4	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.5	671,500
0.8	0.185	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.75	0.71	0.75	280,000
0.95	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.95	0.75	0.8	2,110,000
30	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	27	28	26.5	26.5	1,222,600
11.5	0.19	Multitech Investments Corp.	11.25	11.5	10.75	11	5,648,600
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.75	219,000
0.038	0.009	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.036	0.038	0.036	0.037	171,200,000
1.54	0.8	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.67	0.68	24,500,000
450	209	SM Investments Corp.	437.5	437.5	430	432.5	62,880
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.72	510,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.68	0.69	0.66	0.66	79,700,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	790,000
1.6	0.71	South China Resources Inc	1.56	1.56	1.52	1.52	353,000
0.75	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc	0.74	0.75	0.66	0.68	15,130,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co Inc	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	730,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.96	0.96	1,590,000
19.25	8.96	Ayala Land Inc	18.5	18.5	18	18.25	17,764,900
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.86	1.88	1.8	1.8	18,379,000
4.7	1.86	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.6	774,000
2.9	1	Cityland Development Corp.	2.85	2.9	2.6	2.85	442,000
0.72	0.25	Crown Equities Inc	0.7	0.72	0.67	0.71	12,370,000
0.83	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.74	0.76	26,810,000
3.25	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.2	310,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.92	0.87	0.92	139,770,000
0.32	0.03	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	13,010,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.26	1.28	29,638,000
2.44	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.34	53,792,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	3	3	2.95	2.95	635,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. "A"	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	382,300,000
0.016	0.005	Interport Resources Corp. "B"	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	55,400,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.49	0.49	20,780,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.04	1.06	14,277,000
4.4	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	4.15	4.25	4.15	4.2	73,805,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.4	4.4	260,000
0.7	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.68	0.7	0.65	0.67	24,140,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.76	0.67	0.75	74,440,000
8.4	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	6	8.4	6	8.4	2,909,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	21.75	21.75	20.25	20.25	7,520,600
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.6	4,904,000
15	7.2	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	14.5	14.5	14	14.25	8,744,900
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	1.2	1.34	1.2	1.24	55,164,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.33	12,110,000
		MEDIA					
34	14	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	[illegible]
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc	1.66	1.68	1.64	1.64	4,478,000
1,445.00	895	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,375.00	1,375.00	89,280
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,695.00	2,695.00	2,660.00	2,690.00	77,620
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	2,499,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.33	45,300,000
10.25	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.2	9.2	9	9.1	128,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	7	7.3	7	7.2	13,634,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.06	0.065	0.0525	0.055	712,600,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.46	2.5	2.42	2.46	1,058,000
0.185	0.04	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.16	0.185	118,830,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	179,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb Com Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0675	0.07	814,100,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc	4.5	4.7	4.4	4.5	10,070,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.88	1.92	624,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	6	111,000
32	13	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	31.5	31.5	29.5	29.5	1,250,500
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.04	350,000
1.74	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	40,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.85	4	3.85	3.95	3,968,000
5.2	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	5	5	5	5	130,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.88	0.88	3,360,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	1.08	1.08	0.99	1	2,710,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc	3.35	3.4	[illegible]	3.4	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
7.5	2.75	Easycall Comm. Phils. Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	8,000
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	300
5.3	1.88	Macroasia Corp.	5	5.3	5	5	3,294,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	16	16.5	16	16.25	883,000
30	9.8	Paxys Inc.	25	25	24.75	25	294,000
4	1.3	Philippine Seven Corp	3	3	3	3	1,000
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.015	0.017	1,344,300,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	303,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	304,000
21.25	6.5	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.5	3,765,500
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	13	13	12.75	12.75	152,000
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.5	178,000
3.05	0.0602	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.95	3.05	2.85	2.95	147,499,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	130,550,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	17,680,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.036	0.036	0.035	0.036	90,800,000
0.041	0.0187	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.037	0.038	0.037	0.037	163,400,000
0.024	0.0075	Omico Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	1,089,600,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.8	8,375,000
30	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	29	29	29	29	91,600
1.36	0.32	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	1,593,000
1.8	0.5	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.42	6,173,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.24	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.48	0.54	0.47	0.51	60,360,000
0.025	0.009	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	159,000,000
0.027	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	20,000,000
14.62	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	28,600
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	266,400,000

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METRO MANILA

ANGONO, RIZAL

KGP_RZL001 RSDL LOT
LA. 894 sqm.(Near Pareb Schl)
MISSION HILLS, Brgy. Muzon
Min. Bid Price: P 2,393,475 (+VAT)

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

KGP_RZL002 HOUSE & LOT
LA 213 FA. 82
Cotton Drive (Near ASSUMPTION)
COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS
Min. Bid Price: P 2,066,400

CALOOCAN

KGP_CAL003 RSDL LOT
L.A 470 sqm
(Near Sampaguita Subd.)
SHELTERVILLE SUBD
Min. Bid Price: P 630,000

KGP_CAL004 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 176 sqm FA. 113 sqm.
Molave St. HILLCREST VILL.,Camarin
Min. Bid Price: P 1,510,532

LAS PIÑAS

KGP_LSP005 2 COMM'L BLDG
LA. 594 sqm. FA. 144 sqm & 120 sqm.
(Near Jollibee or Merced Drugstore)
BRGY ALABANG ZAPOTE ROAD
Min. Bid Price: P 7,733,880 (+VAT)

KGP_LSP006 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 280 sqm. FA. 257 sqm.
(Near Caltex Service Station)
VERDANT ACRES SUBD.
Pamplona 3
Min. Bid Price: P 1,528,219

MAKATI

KGP MKT007 COMM'L /RSDL CONDO
PRAISE CONDOMINIUM
Santillan St.
(near Makati Cinema Square)

Floor Area	Min. Bid Price
255.003sqm	P 3,863,685 (+VAT)
255.003sqm	P 3,863,685 (+VAT)
144.307sqm	P 2,186,415 (+VAT)
155.497sqm	P 2,355,990 (+VAT)

MANILA

KGP_MNL008 RSDL CONDO
(Near Robinsons Place Manila)
IMPERIAL BAYFRONT TOWER
Mabini St. Malate

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
28.20 sqm	P 945,000
29.36 sqm	P 997,500
29.40 sqm	P 997,500

KGP_MNL009 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 172 sqm. FA. 100 sqm.
(Near E.R. Gravel & Sand)
CLEMENTE ST., Gagalangin Tondo
Min. Bid Price: P 1,225,960

MUNTINLUPA

KGP_MUN010 HOUSE & LOT w/ BASEMENT
LA 360 sqm FA 239 sqm.
Everlasting Circle Rd.
(Near South Heights Bible Club)
SOUTH GREENHEIGHTS SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,050,000

ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG

KGP_PSG011 OFFICE CONDO
F.A 86.17 sqm.
(Near Shangrila Mall)
ONE MAGNIFICENT MILE CONDO
San Miguel Avenue
Min. Bid Price: P2,255,448 29 (+VAT)

PARANAQUE

KGP_PRQ012 HOUSE & LOT
LA 517 sqm. FA. 294.75 sqm.
(Near EPCI Bank)
Mahogany St., UNITED HILLS 2
Min. Bid Price: P2,625,000 (+VAT)

KGP_PRQ013 HOUSE & LOT
LA.409 sqm FA. 173 sqm
(Near SM BICUTAN - MERVILLE.)
Tulip Cor.Pine Street
EXECUTIVE SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 3,885,000 (+VAT)

KGP_PRQ014 RSD'L CONDO
FA:105 sqm. (Near Eduarosa Tower)
BAYVIEW TOWER 1, Roxas Blvd.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,469,600

KGP_PRQ015 2-STRY. UNFINISHED TOWNHSE
LA. 38.5sqm. (Near Maharlika Ave.)
Santol St. MARCELO GREEN VILL.
Brgy. Green Marcelo Green
Min. Bid Price: P 553,350

KGP_PRQ016 RSDL LOT
Santol St., (near SM Bicutan)
MARCELO GREEN VILL. Phase 4,

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
39 sqm.	P 125,812
39sqm	P 172,991
49.25sqm	P 158,878

KGP_PRQ018 2 STRY w/ MEZZ COMMERCIAL BLDG.
LA. 188 sqm FA 424 sqm.
Quirino Ave. cor.4 De Julio St., BACLARAN
(Near Great World Hardware)
Min. Bid Price: P 6,989,640 (+VAT)

KPG_PRQ062 5-STRY CONDO (SCHOOL BLDG)
L.A. / F.A. (PLS. CALL)
LA QUINTA CONDOMINIUM
Brgy. Ibayo (near Merville Subd)
Min. Bid Price: P10,747,800

PASAY

KGP_PSY019 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 600 sqm. F.A. 320 sqm.
(Near Asia Pacific Hotel)
CHIANGKIANG ST. Brgy. San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P 9,072,800 (+VAT)

QUEZON CITY

KGP_QCL020 COMM'L CONDO
FA. 54.04 sqm (Near Gateway Mall)
UNIT 102, G/F, REGALIA PARK TOWER B, P Tuazon, Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P 2,402,400 (+VAT)

KGP_QCL026 TOWNHSE
LA. 49.96 sqm. FA. 118 sqm
(Near Combat Security Force)
LE MARQUIS TOWNHOMES
P. Tuazon Blvd. Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P 1,380,800

KGP_QCB021 HOUSE & LOT
LA 162.70 sqm FA. 556.99
(Near Sm North)
AGNO EXTENSION, Brgy. Tatalon
Min. Bid Price: P 2,481,603

KGP_QCB023 3-STRY TOWNHSE
FA. 264.44 sqm.
(Near St. Paul College)
IVORY CREST MASIONS
Gilmore Ave., New Manila
Min. Bid Price: P 1,500,000

KGP_QCB024 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 252 sqm. FA. 114 sqm.
Jude Street, IMELDA VILLAGE
Bahay Toro (Near Mercury Drug)
Min. Bid Price: P 105,000

KGP_QCB0025 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 432 sqm F.A. 209.35 sqm.
Maunawain St, Brgy. Pinahan,
EAST AVE. (Near V. Luna)
Min. Bid Price: P3,674,246.10 (+VAT)

KGP_QCB027 2-STRY TOWNHSE
LA. 58.17 sqm. FA. 117.40 sqm.
(Near Sanville Subd.)
Las Villas del Cielo,Tandang Sora
Min. Bid Price: P 1,575,000

KGP_QCB028 2-STRY TOWNHSE
LA 57.99 sqm. FA. 146 sqm.
(Between Visayas Ave & Tandang Sora) Las Villas del Cielo Townhouse,
Brgy. Culiat, Tandang Sora
Min. Bid Price: P2,310,000

KGP_QCL063 3 OFFICE COMPLEX
LA. 2,183 sqm. FA. 3,580 sqm.
E. Rodriguez Ave. cor. Monte De Piedad St., Brgy. Immaculate Concepción, Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P87,616,200 (+VAT)

SAN JUAN

KGP_SJ064 OFFICE BLDG
L.A. 490 sqm. F.A. 185 sqm.
N. Domingo Ave. (near SM Sta. Mesa)
Min. Bid Price: P9,240,000 (+VAT)

TAGUIG

KGP_TAG029 RSDL CONDO
FA. 44 sqm. (Near St. Anne Parish)
HAMILTON CONDO. BLDG Phase II
Lakeview, Manors Condominium
Bagong Calzada Bo.Ususan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,050,000

LUZON

BENGUET

Text 09185328111

KGP_BGT030 RSDL LOT
LA 494 sqm (Near Balatok Road)
VISTA VERDE HEIGHTS
Bo Virac Itogon
Min. Bid Price: P 210,000

KGP_BGT031 RSDL LOT
LA.5,000 sqm.
(Near Apugan Elem. Sch)
Barrio Población, Tuba
Min. Bid Price: P 866,250

KGP_BGT017 RSDL CONDO
FA:152.311sqm.
AMVILLE COURT TOWNHOUSE
Justice Village, Bakakeng, Baguio
Min. Bid Price: P 1,108,532

BATANGAS

KGP_BAT032 2-STRY COMM'L BLDG
(2 function rooms, 8 comm'l units, 10 parking slots)
L.A. 1,782 sqm. FA. 1,009sqm.
(Near SM and Robinsons Lipa and at the back of the Lipa Cathedral)
G.A. SOLIS ST. Brgy. Poblacion, Lipa
Min. Bid Price: P12,600 ,000 (+VAT)

KGP_BAT033 3-STRY SCHL BLDG. & 1 STRY H.E. & CLINIC BLDG.
L.A. 1, 113 sqm. FA. 2,765 sqm.
(Near Tanauan Mun. Hall)
N. GONZALES ST.,
Brgy. 2 Poblacion, Tanuan
Min. Bid Price: P 9,679,950 (+VAT)

BULACAN

KGP_BUL034 HOUSE & LOT
LA 308 sqm FA. 80 sqm
GROTTO TOWERVILLE SUBD.
Brgy. Gaya- gaya
(Near Grotto Vista Resort)
Min. Bid Price: P 679,288.05

KGP_BUL035 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 175 sqm. FA. 36 sqm.
(Near St. Paul United Methodist Church)
KABUKIRAN SUBDIVISION
Brgy. Tabe Guiguinto
Min. Bid Price: P 287,112

CAVITE

KGP_CVT036 RSDL LOT
LA 524 sqm
(Near Mla. Southwoods Estate)
Cypress Point St.,MANILA SOUTHWOODS PH 3
Bgy. Baybay, Carmona
Min Bid Price: P 3,581,655 (+VAT)

KGP_CVT037 RSDL LOT
LA 592 sqm (Near SM City Dasma)
CITYVIEW DASMA. III SUBD.
Brgy. Malinta
Min Bid Price: P 693,000

KGP_CVT038 RSDL LOT
LA 523 sqm
STATELAND SUBD., PH 1
Bgy Buenavista, Gen. Trias
Min Bid Price: P 395,388

LAGUNA

KGP_LGN042 RSDL LOT
LA 841 sqm.
(Near South Peak Subd.)
Bo. San Vicente, SAN PEDRO
Min. Bid Price: P 441,000

KGP_LGN040 COMM'L LOT
LA. 116,785 sqm. F.A. 17.322 sqm.
(formerly foundry plant) Maharlika Highway, Brgy. San Benito, Alaminos
Min. Bid Price: P97,065,234 (+VAT)

KGP_LGN041 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 117.00 sqm. FA. 93.6 sqm
(Near Paseo de Santa Rosa Market)
Sutter St., LAGUNA BEL-AIR II
PH5 Brgy. Don Jose, Sta. Rosa
Min Bid Price: P1,612,243

LEGAZPI

Text 09204615471

KGP_LGP044 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 2,548 sqm. LA. 506 sqm
TAGUNTONG HILLS, Brgy. Taysan
Min. Bid Price: P 2,547,386 (+VAT)

KGP_LGP045 4-UNITS TOWNHSE
LA. 479 sqm. LA. 215 sqm
TAGUNTONG HILLS, Brgy. Taysan
Min. Bid Price: P 975,945

PANGASINAN

Text 09287260430

KGP_PGN046 RSDL LOT
LA 1,462 sqm. (Along Nat'l Hi-way)
Brgy. San Jose URDANETA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 2,145,770

KGP_PGN047 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 219 sqm. FA. 145 sqm
(Along Nat'l Highway.)
Bonuan Binlac, Dagupan City
Min. Bid Price: P 754,806

VISAYAS

CAPIZ

Text 09206186282

KGP_CPZ048 AGRILAND W/FISHPOND
LA. 381,472 sqm
Brgy. Manapao, PONTAVEDRA
Min. Bid Price: P4,866,629 (+VAT)

CEBU

Text 09266256957

KGP_CEB049 AGRI LAND
LA 6,100 sqm.
(Near Mun. Of Daan Bantayan)
Guintarcan
Min Bid Price: P 78,750

KGP_CEB065 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,145 sqm.
Tayud, Lilo-an
Min Bid Price: P 2,175,390

ILOILO

Text 09206186282

KGP_ILO050 RSD'L LOT
PETASVILLE, Tabuc, Jaro

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
125 sqm	P	19,688
126 sqm	P	19,845
150 sqm	P	23,625
179 sqm	P	28,193
240 sqm	P	37,800

KGP_ILO051 COMM'L / RSDL BLDG.
LA. 229,572 sqm. F.A. 338 sqm.
Brgy. Gawahon, Sitio Padios, Sara
Min. Bid Price: P 105,000

KGP_ILO052 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 375sqm. F.A. 99 sqm.
Brgy. Aspera, Sara
Min. Bid Price: P 194,848

KGP_ILO053 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. / F.A. (PLEASE CALL)
Guinobalan, LAGANES
Min. Bid Price: P900,831

KGP_ILO054 RSDL LOT
L.J. LEDESMA SUBD.
Brgy. Buhang, Jaro
(Infront of Shell Gasoline Station)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
60 sqm	P	37,800
64 sqm	P	40,320
69 sqm	P	43,470
83 sqm	P	52,290

MINDANAO

COTABATO

Text 09192653012

KGP_COT055 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 811 FA. (dilapidated)
(Near Immaculate Concepcion)
QUEZON AVENUE
Min. Bid Price: P 2,120,265

DAVAO

Text 09219703112

KGP_DAV056 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 781 sqm F.A. 200 sqm.
Ilang Ilang Ph1
PANORAMA HOMES SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,382,659 (+VAT)

GENERAL SANTOS

Text 09267666746

KGP_GSC057 RSDL LOT
LA 6,824 sqm.
Bo. Bula
(Near Socsargen Country Hosp.)
Min. Bid Price: P 2,866,080 (+VAT)

KGP_GSC058 HOUSE & LOT
LA 500 sqm. FA. 60 sqm.
(Near Malasido Subd.) PEREZ SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 586,467

ZAMBOANGA

Text 09198268203

KGP_ZAM058 HOUSE & LOT
LA. / FA. (PLS. CALL)
(Near Zamboanga City Proper)
BRGY. TALON-TALON
Min. Bid Price: P 224,807

KGP_ZAM059 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 500 sqm. FA. 257 sqm.
(Near Zamboanga City Proper)
BRGY. STA. BARBARA
Min. Bid Price: P 525,625

KGP_ZAM060 RSDSL LOT
LA. 9,491 sqm.
BRGY. CAPISAN, Upper San Roque
Min. Bid Price: P 9,966

KGP_ZAM061 2 UNITS 2-STRY APRTMNT BLDG.
LA. 665 sqm. FA. 130sqm.
(Near Machoron Drive)
CANELAR PAINT TRADE, Canelar
Min. Bid Price: P 1,633,800

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Fishermen urged to diversify

$186-M market for aquarium fish can be an option

By Amy R. Remo

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ARTHUR C. YAP IS urging small fishermen to tap the $186-million export market for ornamental aquarium fish.

In a statement, Yap said the Philippines could tap existing markets in the United Kingdom, France, Japan, the United States and Germany, as well as the emerging markets in Eastern Europe, China and India for aquarium fish such as guppy, molly, tetra, angelfish and discus.

The retail trade generated by the aquarium fish sector—including hardware, accessories and feeds—was estimated to reach $7.2 billion as reported by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

However, most of the freshwater tropical fish sold to hobbyists around the world come from South America and Africa.

Several Asian countries have recently developed multimillion-dollar industries from breeding freshwater tropical fish for export to the US, Canada and Europe.

Singapore, for instance, exported ornamental aquarium fish worth $49.5 million in 2004, up 16 percent from year-ago's $42.6 million.

Last March, the Department of Agriculture launched two techno-demo research for aquarium fish in the Sucat and Cardona side of the Laguna Lake. This facility would serve as the pilot demonstration site for the culture of ornamental aquarium fish.

Yap said the Calabarzon region of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon was an ideal site for this industry because of its vast freshwaters, favorable climate, available manpower, proximity to Metro Manila and accessibility to major ports.

He said that in the Calabarzon area alone, "the industry can create as much as 35,000 direct jobs, not to mention the multiplier effect it will generate for suppliers of feeds, hardware and accessories."

Yap said the DA's immediate goal was to establish the optimum condition for the growth of ornamental fish that would eventually serve as a guide for the commercial culture of this high-value, nonfood fish commodity.

The DA is also disseminating information on better techniques for culturing and handling ornamental fish to ensure higher returns on investment and sustainable production.

It is also putting in place intervention measures to help poor fisherfolk take advantage of this emerging industry.

This is also meant to raise awareness of pricing schemes in the local and export markets to help breeders negotiate better prices.

Slower …

From page B1

weeks," said Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management Phils. Inc.

These share offerings include those of Phoenix Petroleum, Aboitiz Power Corp. and Vista Land Inc.

AB Capital Securities said in a daily note to clients that the market could continue to consolidate with very little leads locally.

"Guidance will continue to come from abroad. The movements in the US bond yields and the volatility in commodity prices may continue to provide a negative bias for share prices," it said.

Online broker 2TradeAsia.Com said in a weekly report that optimism in the local economy was reinforced by net foreign buying last week which hit P2.19 billion compared with the previous week's P1.05 billion.

"That should trickle down to improved corporate earnings this year. This is supported by several companies' call to undertake additional equity offers, as well as those listing their shares for the first time to the public for the remaining semester this year. Over the near-term, we continue to affirm our optimism for borrowing costs to remain stable, given benign inflation indicators," 2TradeAsia.Com wrote. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

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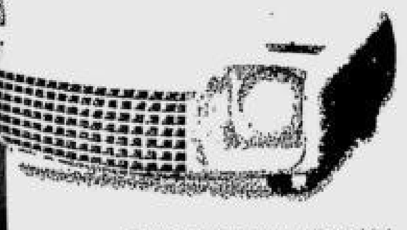

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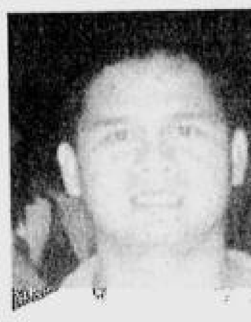

Be it known that warrants of arrest of **MR. APOLINAR RECINTO MARASIGAN** of Brgy. Duhatan, Lipa City, Batangas whose picture appears above have been issued by the Municipal Trial Court of Lipa City in Criminal Case Nos. 06-0145 and 06-0362 to 06-0367 for violation of Batas Pambansa Bilang 22.

Please direct any information leading to his arrest or whereabouts to:

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OBITUARIES

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live,
Even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory
On the Eleventh Death Anniversary of

JUSTICE MANUEL K. GRUBA

Formerly of the Court of Tax Appeals
who passed on to Eternal Life
on June 26, 1996.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following churches:

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Q.C.	All Masses
Mary the Queen Parish, San Juan	6:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Santo Domingo Church, Quezon City	8:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Mount Carmel Shrine, Quezon City	6:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Nstra. Sra. Del Perpetual Socorro Parish 2042 Calamba, Manila	6:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Our Lady of La Consolation Church Miranila Homes, Quezon City	6:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

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"My soul, be at rest in GOD alone from whom comes my hope." Psalm 62:6

Our dearly beloved

GUILLERMA JIMENEZ LEONARDO (Lola Emang)

who was born on June 25, 1908 and peacefully joined our Creator on June 22, 2007 at the age of 99.

Her loving family: Children **Anita, Ricardo & Felicisima, Jose & Teresita, Cesar & Lorna,** and **Aurora;** Grandchildren: **Joy, Wilson, Bong, Pinky, Daniel, Pickles, Nolan, Glady, Dita, Lito** and **Phillip dela Cruz & Marlyn;** and her great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at the Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Church (Adamson University Church), San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila.

Interment will be tomorrow, June 26, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, at 2:00 pm.

People, Events & Products

Siemens wins iF product design award 2007 for OpenStage SIP Phone

SIEMENS ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATIONS TODAY announced that its OpenStage phone has won a 2007 iF product design award, one of the most prestigious awards of its kind in the world. Siemens competed against more than 163 other products in the Consumer Electronics/Telecommunications category and the OpenStage phone was one of two office-desk phones so honored.

iF International Forum Design organizes four of the world's most famous design competitions: the iF product design award, the iF communication design award, the iF design award china and the iF material award. Started in 1953, it is one of the oldest design centers in Europe and focuses on the contributions of design in the dialogue between commerce and industry.

iF awarded 756 contestants out of 2,292 entries this year for the iF product design award. The evaluation criteria included design quality, workmanship, degree of innovation, environmental friendliness, functionality, ergonomics, safety and branding.

"In a competition like the iF product design award, designers and companies are encouraged to be creative, independent and accurate in their workmanship," said Egon Babst, an iF award juror and CEO at Wellis AG, a Swiss furniture manufacturer. "The competitive nature of the event therefore plays a vital role in helping to continually raise standards in product design."

Designed by designafairs GmbH Munich, the OpenStage IP telephone offers a revolutionary new design that combines ease-of-use with PC functionality. OpenStage's touch-sensitive wheel, called TouchGuide, allows easy access to a menu-driven user interface. The TouchSlider controls the volume of the handset, ringer and speaker phone. Touch-sensitive pre-set and programmable keys provide easy access to frequently used applications and features, such as address books, voicemail, conferencing and speed dial. The phone's slim, compact form incorporates high-quality materials, optimum acoustic quality and elegant design.

In addition, OpenStage phones bring an open communications hardware platform to the desktop for the first time. Using Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), they integrate wired, wireless and IP communications to provide new conferencing and call features such as push-to-conference, desktop call management, presence-based calling and more. The phones also support compatible third-party applications through standards-based technology such as Java, HTML, WML and XML to act as a key interface for everyday enterprise business applications.

"Winning the iF product design award is a tremendous honor for Siemens," said Thomas Zimmermann, COO, Siemens Enterprise Communications. "The award exemplifies our Open Communications philosophy and shows how combining ease of use and functionality can give our customers the easiest and most effective means to interact." Siemens received the award at the CeBIT conference in Hannover, Germany on March 15.

Hands On Manila celebrates spirit of volunteerism with writing tilt

HANDS ON MANILA FOUNDATION INC., A NONprofit organization that gives individuals and groups opportunities to contribute to community development through volunteer efforts, is celebrating the spirit of volunteerism in the Philippines with a writing competition.

Hands On Manila is launching "Volunteer Chronicles" to encourage more Filipinos, local companies, and organizations to be actively involved in volunteer work and help improve the lives of underprivileged communities in the country.

"Volunteer Chronicles" is open to all non-professional Filipino writers, 18 years old and above, who wish to write about their significant volunteer experience in the areas of: community and social development, educational programs, or initiatives for the protection of the environment.

Twenty write-ups will be selected for publication with Anvil Publishing. The top three winners will receive awards and their articles will be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. The articles will be judged based on the following criteria: relevance (50 percent); writing style (25 percent); and compliance with contest mechanics (25 percent). A free trip on Cebu Pacific, gift certificates from Powerbooks, and other prizes are up for grabs.

The official entry and authorization forms may be obtained from any Powerbooks branch. You may also download forms at powerbooks.multiply.com/journal/item/6. Write-ups should be in English, 500 to 2,000 words, and typewritten double-spaced on a letter-size bond paper using a 12-points-sized font. The author's real name must appear only in the entry form and authorization form placed in a sealed white envelope and not in the write-up to keep objectivity in judging the entries.

Entries may be submitted to any Powerbooks branch or mailed to the Powerbooks head office at 25 Brixton Street, Capitol Subdivision, Pasig City. Deadline for the submission of entries is Aug. 31 at 9 p.m.

Hands On Manila is the first affiliate of Hands On Network in the Asia-Pacific region. Founded in 1992, Hands On Network is an international alliance of volunteer organizations and responsible corporate citizens committed to the improvement of volunteer programs for the underprivileged. For more details on Hands On Manila, visit www.handsonmanila.org.

PANASONIC LAB GETS ISO/IEC 17025. Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corporation (PMPC) recently received accreditation for its measurement control and parts testing laboratories from the Department of Trade & Industry - Philippine Accreditation Office (DTI-PAO). These new accredited facilities have been added to the calibration, packaging and parts evaluation services currently offered by PMPC to the public. Photo shows PMPC president Reynaldo S. Lico (4th from right) receiving the PNS ISO/IEC 17025:2005 Certificate from DTI-PAO officer-in-charge Cirila Botor (4th from left). Witnessing the event are (from left) DTI-PAO assessor Aryan Basas, DTI-PAO operations manager Perla Baje, PMPC-CorPlan section manager Ditas Malit, PMPC Director Manuel Tenmatay, PMPC-QAC department manager Sebastian Cerdeña, Jr., and PMPC-QAC specialist Alejandro Mangalili. ISO/IEC 17025 is an International Standard composed of technical and management system requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. PMPC is the local manufacturer and distributor of electronic, electrical, electro-mechanical appliances, dry batteries and related products bearing the brand name "Panasonic". Established in 1967, PMPC is the first Filipino-Japanese joint venture operation in the area of consumer electronics in the Philippines.

The hard facts on constipation

ONE OF THE COUPLE of things in life that people don't rather talk about is constipation. It became an uncomfortable topic that turned out into a sort of "medical mystery" to the ordinary person. Constipation sufferers in the Philippines accounts for 37 percent of the population, thus, this condition should not be ignored.

Constipation, also known as Delayed bowel movement happens when the large intestine's muscles fail to function properly. The colon stimulates bowel movement through Peristalsis, normal, wave-like motion that can be disrupted by certain diseases, medications or changes in daily routines.

Medical research explains that a person who experiences only three bowel movements a week can be considered as constipated. Since constipation, unlike other medical conditions, is seldom discussed, most sufferers prefer to take home remedies such as an abrupt change in diet or increased fiber intake, intense physical activity or more fluid intake. Unfortunately, these types of treatment do not guarantee relief from the condition. In some cases, such as increased fiber intake, home remedies may actually do more harm than good.

The good news is, there is a proven and safe cure for constipation — Dulcolax (Bisacodyl). Dulcolax, is a contact laxative that induces sensory nerve endings of the large intestine to restart peristalsis and helps restore the colon's natural rhythm. Each tablet has a "comfort coating" and when taken at bedtime, promotes natural bowel movement the following morning. It is the trusted laxative brand worldwide, proven safe and effective by the US-FDA. There is no reason why constipation sufferers should be left in dark about their condition and the appropriate treatment for it. Hopefully, in time, everyone will be knowledgeable and accepting of the affliction.

People, Events & Products

Petron holds 25th Dealer Conference

AT THE 25TH PETDA (PETRON DEALERS Association) Conference held at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel last April 20-21, Petron president Khalid Al-Faddagh thanked Petron dealers for strengthening the oil company's market leadership in 2006.

Al-Faddagh also reiterated Petron's commitment to its dealer network development in attaining the corporate vision of "leading through partnerships."

Attended by over 800 Petron dealer representatives from all over the country, the two-day conference was opened by PETDA chairperson Aurora Lara, while PETDA president Ruth Marbibi introduced Department of Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, who delivered the keynote message of the conference.

Petron chairman Nicasio I. Alcantara, summarizing the dramatic changes in the industry and the company, discussed the $300-million Refinery Master Plan, which reinforces Petron's competitive advantage by ensuring that it is able to supply high-quality gasoline, diesel and LPG in a consistent and reliable manner to the Philippine market.

One of the highlights of the PETDA conference was the recognition of service awardees, notably Apolonio Marasigan, a dealer in San Juan, Batangas, for 57 years of service. Twenty-two other dealers from all over the country received awards for more than 35 years of service.

Willie Juinio of Petron Commonwealth was honored with the Chairman's Award for Total Excellence in Retail Outlet Management. The President's Awards went to: Jaime Pua (Petron Dona Soledad, Paranaque) for outstanding sales volume; Leopoldo Concel Jr (Petron Kabankalan, Negros Occidental) for outstanding incremental sales volume; and Octaviano Hilarion (Petron T'boli, South Cotabato) for outstanding sales volume growth.

Closing the two-day conference, reseller trade GM Ramon Del Rosario congratulated the Petron dealers for being the number one choice of motorists despite intense competition, reiterating Petron's commitment to deliver superior products and services through a reliable dealer network willing to *'Go the Xtra Mile!'*

Analysts bullish on Didipio mine prospects

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

KASIBU, NUEVA VIZCAYA—FOREIGN investment analysts have remained upbeat on the prospects of the Didipio gold ore-copper exploration project here.

"We see growing investments in gold and copper exploration in this area. Gold is coming into its own," said Andrew Pullar, portfolio manager of the Baker Steel Capital Managers LLp, who led a group of analysts on a recent visit to the mine.

Pullar said Baker Steel, which manages around $600 million worth of investments in energy and base and precious metals sectors, would likely take advantage of growing investment opportunities in the Philippine mining sector, such as the Didipio project.

Pullar was accompanied by Bob Catto, investment director of the Williams de Broe; Richard Hubbard, business development manager of the North Cote (IOM) Ltd.; and Brian Lueck, consultant geologist of the firm Metals Exploration, in the visit here on June 10.

Geoff Boswell, country exploration manager of the project proponent Oceania Gold, said their firm envisioned the exploration project to reap "investment profits in 15 years."

The Didipio project used to be a joint venture between Oceania Gold and Australasian Philippines Mining Inc. (Apmi).

Oceania Gold, however, recently took sole ownership of the project.

Records showed the mining project in Didipio covers 21,465 hectares. The company has a financial and technical assistance agreement (FTAA) that allows it to conduct exploration within a 3-km radius from Barangay Didipio.

Given the opposition from residents in the project site, Boswell said the firm's officials have been tasked to intensify community relations and social development management programs to ensure the project's success.

He said Oceania Gold has plans to develop new mineral reserves and resources, maintain existing mines and pursue acquisition and exploration opportunities in other areas.

Boswell said the firm has ongoing exploration projects in six sites in Cagayan, Apayao, Panay Island, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Norte.

No Free ...

From page B2

first kind are those who are not looking for jobs by their own choice, either because they are in school, or if out of school (either graduated or dropped out) , prefer not to work. Clearly, these are people who should not be counted as part of the labor force.

The second kind who are now counted as being out of the labor force are those who have stopped looking for jobs because they have given up hope of finding one, after searching unsuccessfully for too long, i.e., the frustrated jobseekers. The reason the new definition is so controversial is that by counting them out of the labor force, we are in effect not considering them to be victims of the jobs situation—and yet they clearly are. The available data so far don't tell us how many of the 169,000 new working-age nonjobseekers are in this category.

Sectoral jobs

A welcome change is that agriculture was the biggest source of new jobs over the past year, accounting for 583,000 or more than half. Considering that this is the sector that traditionally has the most unemployed workers, this bodes well for the welfare of rural folk in the Philippine countryside. However, agriculture has also been the most erratic performer in our economy, and given past experience, the situation could easily swing to the opposite side of the pendulum even within the year. Meanwhile, services accounted for 431,000 new jobs, while industry produced only 26,000 net new jobs.

The last is bad news in more ways than one. Within industry, manufacturing actually lost 105,000 jobs over the past year, indicating a lot of closures and retrenchments in the manufacturing sector. What made up for this massive loss was 121,000 new jobs in construction, along with 5,000 new jobs in mining and 4,000 in utilities. The problem here is that construction jobs are not as durable as manufacturing jobs. Indications are that construction activity shot up mainly because of the surge in government construction (a whopping 16.9-percent growth, as we reported last week) that preceded the elections. I need not explain why. But the recent bad news on government revenues tells me there is likely to be a slowdown in government construction for the rest of the year.

Better quality

So except for the above threats, the numbers are generally good. But what about the quality of the jobs being generated? Fortunately, indicators appear positive too. Underemployment has dramatically declined by about two million workers, with a lot less full-time workers saying that they were underemployed (31 percent from last year's 39 percent). Also, wage and salary workers make up a higher percentage (51.1 percent) compared to last year (50.6 percent), although unpaid family workers also went up from 12 to 13 percent. The other category, the self-employed or own-account workers, declined from 37.5 to 35.8 percent.

Last week, we explained why the impressive 6.9-percent first quarter GDP growth may be too good to last for the remainder of the year. Is it the same for the current positive jobs picture? I sure hope not—but keep your fingers crossed, and pray for the best. *Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

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NDA brings in livestock worth ₱44M from NZ

Holstein-Sahiewal cows expected to boost RP production

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORity has imported 488 pregnant dairy animals from New Zealand worth roughly P44 million, in an effort to step up the country's livestock production.

The cows of the Holstein-Sahiewal Crosses breed were shipped to the Cagayan de Oro City port early this month.

These were immediately transferred to Del Monte Farms in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, to undergo a 30-45 day quarantine under the supervision of NDA and Del Monte Farms.

Some 200 cows would be distributed to farmers in Bicol, 119 heads in Batangas, while the rest of the cows would be sent to several provinces including Bulacan, Zambales, Palawan and Cebu.

Ma. Theresa Rozul, NDA officer-in-charge for the planning division, told the INQUIRER that this would probably be the first and last importation of dairy cows for the year.

She explained that the government imports cows if there was a need for it or if it is called for under a particular project.

This year's importation was jointly funded by the United States Agency for International Development for its Food for Progress program and NDA Quedancor Animal Loan program.

Last year, the country imported 615 heads for another project under PL 480 or the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, said Rozul.

Last month, an animal inspection and selection team went to New Zealand to select 500 heads of Holstein Sahiewal Crosses, which would be imported in 2008.

The livestock subsector, which contributed 12.63 percent to total agricultural output, grew by another 2.20 percent in the first quarter of 2007.

At current prices, the subsector contributed P39.3 billion to total agricultural output.

A rising trend in the production of hog, goat and dairy was reported during the period, as well as considerable increases in the number of slaughtering and inventory of animals nationwide.

Dairy reported an impressive output gain of 4.62 percent, complemented by an increase in the number of dairy cattle.

Cattle production, however, went down by 0.55 percent.

Cattle prices were up by 0.47 percent while both carabao and dairy prices declined by 2.45 percent and 0.71 percent, respectively.

Robinsons mall, hotel to rise in Tacloban

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE GOKONGwei group would start construction of its Robinsons shopping mall project here by the third quarter this year.

Aside from the shopping mall project, the company also plans to build a hotel on a four-hectare lot at the Marasbaras district, four kilometers from the city proper, city administrator Jimmy Yaokasin said.

Yaokasin said the investment for the shopping mall and hotel would reach around P2 billion.

The construction of the mall and hotel would start on October and would be completed in 14 months.

The city, at present, has the Gaisano, located right at the city's downtown area, as its lone shopping mall.

Yaokasin said that it took about a year before the Gokongwei group decided to go ahead with its shopping mall project in Tacloban City, which has a population of around 200,000.

Tacloban City is also the regional capital of Eastern Visayas, with its population of over four million.

Yaokasin also noted that the local traders should not be worried over the entry of the Manila-based developer.

"The economic pie in the city and in the region, for that matter, is still big. People from other provinces in the region will no longer go to Cebu to shop but will just do their thing here," he said.

Yaokasin also said that the presence of the new mall would expand the city's economic basket and would serve as a magnet for other investors and manufactures.

The investment would also mean employment generation for the people of the city and nearby areas, Yaokasin said.

The site of the Robinson's Mall is presently used by bus operators which ply the Luzon-Mindanao routes.

It is also about a kilometer away from the city's Daniel Z. Romualdez Airport where the Gokongwei-owned Cebu Pacific flies to three times a day.

NTT DoCoMo offers roaming discount

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NTT DOCOMO GROUP WILL offer its first discount plan for roaming services over the network of Smart Communications and other partners, Japan's telco giant said over the weekend.

DoCoMo said in a statement that it would offer a 20-percent discount on videophone and packet communications over the networks of Conexus Mobile Alliance partners from July 1 to Sept. 30, 2007.

The discount applies to all outgoing videophone calls, regardless of destination, but not to incoming videophone calls.

The Japanese telco said this was its first discount plan for roaming services and that other Conexus alliance members were also launching the roaming discount plans for their respective customers in Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Macau, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan.

The Conexus Mobile Alliance was formed in April 2006 to enhance international roaming services in its members' respective countries and territories, and in the broader Asia Pacific region.

The current members are Smart Communications, NTT DoCoMo, Far Eastone Telecommunications (Taiwan), Hutchison Essar (India), Hutchison Telecommunications (Hong Kong and Macau), KT Freetel (South Korea), Indosat (Indonesia), and Starhub (Singapore).

Gov't borrowings . . .

From page B1

The government's creditors consist of government securities investors and foreign lenders like the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Asian Development Bank and the World bank.

DOF documents also showed that the government's net borrowings in the first five months of the year hit P35.862 billion. Net borrowings is the amount of total loans obtained less the amount of payments made to settle maturing obligations.

The government set a program for the entire year of borrowing $2.47 billion from foreign sources, of which the bigger amount of $1.47 billion should come in the form of official development assistance from agencies like JBIC, ADB and the World Bank.

The other $1 billion, which was already raised in January, was tapped from the international commercial market through the flotation of sovereign bonds.

The government will also borrow this year another P208 billion domestically, mainly through the sale of treasury bills and bonds.

Fiscal managers said the $2.47 billion worth of foreign-currency denominated borrowings for this year marked a 38-percent drop from the $4 billion recorded last year. On the other hand, they added that the P208 billion in domestic borrowings slated for this year would be 16 percent lower than the P247 billion recorded last year.

They explained that the drop in the amount of borrowings was anchored on expectations that the budget deficit would drop this year, and that the amount of maturing liabilities would not be as huge as before.

The deficit is targeted to hit only P63 billion, although the DOF admitted that the government, as of May, was off track to meet the deficit ceiling for the entire year. The DOF, however, stressed it was keeping the P63-billion target.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

LIBBY V. GANANCIAL LUSTRO,
Petitioner,
-vesus-
LEODEGARIA FERRER and
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Respondent.
x---x

SSC Case No. 1-15429-03

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION/ORDER

TO: LEODEGARIA FERRER

GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of April 2007, a **RESOLUTION** consisting of six (6) pages, was promulgated in the above-mentioned case, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

"WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, this Commission finds, and so holds, that petitioner Libby Ganancial Lustro, the dependent legitimate spouse of SSS member Roman Lustro, Jr., together with the latter's dependent minor illegitimate children, namely: Lucymar, Leo Rumy and Roman Alex, all surnamed Lustro, are entitled to receive the SS benefits accruing from his death, as primary beneficiaries.

Accordingly, the SSS is hereby ordered to pay the aforesaid beneficiaries, their appropriate death benefits, subject to its existing rules and regulations and to inform this Commission of its compliance herewith.

SO ORDERED."

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI - June 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CARAGA
Butuan City
Pizarro Street, Corner Narra Road
Tel. Nos : (085) 3425208 / 341-1453 / 342-5667 / Fax 225-2970

Department of Health – Caraga, Butuan City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE – BUTUAN CITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – CARAGA, through General Appropriations Act intends to apply specified sum for the following projects:
   - a. Project: PROCUREMENT OF SPISP VEHICLE AND MOTORCYCLE
     Approved Budget for the Contract. Four million three hundred fifty thousand pesos only (Php 4,350,000.00).

Sale of Bid Documents	June 25 and July 2, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	July 16, 2007
Bid Opening	August 7, 2007
Price of Bid Documents	Two thousand pesos (Php 2,000.00) only – Vehicle One thousand five hundred pesos (Php 1,500.00) only – Motorcycle

   - b. Procurement of Drugs & Meds with ABC Php 1,132,926.00
   - c. Procurement of Computer Supplies & Equipment with ABC Php 3,169,899.70
   - d. Procurement of Medical Supplies & Laboratory Reagents with ABC Php 1,489,847.00
   - e. Procurement of Office Equipment & Supplies with ABC Php 1,634,640.00

   Bidding Schedule for B,C,D & E same as above.
   Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be Automatically rejected at Bids Opening
2. The Department of Health – Caraga now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated project. Deliveries of the goods are stated on the schedule of requirements.

   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and its restricted to organization with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidders with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the projects. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidders (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Department of Health – Caraga, Butuan City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon, 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for the project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as stated above. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. The bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount of at least equal to and lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:
   1. Cash, Certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)
   2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)
   3. GSIS Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)

   Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative/s who can choose to attend at the address below
8. The Department of Health-Caraga, Butuan City, reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability of the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-CARAGA Pizarro Street, corner Narra Road Butuan City
Telephone Nos.	(085) 342-5208
Fax No.	(085) 225-2970
Contact Person	FLORMINDA B. TEJANO, DPA Chairperson

(Sgd.) FLORMINDA B. TEJANO, DPA
BAC-Chairperson

(PDI–June 25 & July 2, 2007)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 Fax No. 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

TWO (2) YEARS "ON-CALL" CONTRACT FOR THE REPAIR/ RECONDITIONING, REPAIR, AND REASSEMBLING OF BLOW-OUT PREVENTERS
EDC 07-121

The Approved Project Cost in "On-Call" chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 2 years.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o G.F. Cueno) starting **June 25, 2007** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: One Thousand (P1,000.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **July 3, 2007, 10:00 AM** at the BAC Room, PNOC-EDC Building 5, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st floor, Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. on July 16, 2007** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantegeous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI – June 25, 2007)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - CENTRAL VISAYAS (DOH-CV)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	: **One Job Service to Supply 22 Licensed Security Guards for a Period of One Year - REBIDDING**
Location	: Cebu City
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	: Php3,150,000.00
Contract Duration	: 1 year

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	June 25-July 5, 2007 DOH-CV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
2. Pre-bid Conference	None
3. Opening of Bids	July 10, 2007 at 9:30 am Tugas Conference Room DOH-CV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php2,900 in cash to the DOH-CV Cashier.

The Department of Health - Central Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Department of Health - Central Visayas
Mrs. Elizabeth P. Tabasa - BAC Secretariat Chairperson
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
Telephone No.: (032) 253-6359
miggerson@yahoo.com (032) 253-3419 Telefax
www.chd7.doh.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ENGR. MIGUEL T. GERSON**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 25, 2007)

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-Dra. Corpuz
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- MT Industry in the Philippines
  Responding to the latest trends
- HIPAA Compliance
  How important is compliance?
  How simple or complicated is it to comply?
- TASP Technology - Logic and Demo
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- Resource Requirements
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- Financial Management for Local MT Production
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Capital-deficient firms told to submit business plans

Due process will be observed, PSE president says

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) is reviewing the performance of 15 listed firms with net capital deficiencies in a bid to discourage price speculation, protect investors and ensure the integrity of the local stock market.

"Pursuant to the PSE's existing rules, our board has required listed firms with negative stockholders' equity or net capital deficiencies to submit their respective business plans or, for some, their rehabilitation plans," Francis Lim, PSE president and chief executive officer, said.

Under the PSE's rules, a negative stockholders' equity is a ground for delisting an affected company, Lim said.

"But our board will observe due process, and it has decided to give all affected companies a chance to demonstrate their continued viability through their business plans," he added.

A company has a negative stockholders' equity when its total liabilities exceed its total assets, as shown in its balance sheet. This could translate to insufficiency of current capital to sustain operations.

The 15 companies have been notified of the PSE board resolution imposing the requirement and were given 30 days from receipt of the notice to submit their business or rehabilitation plans.

Of the 15, 13 were asked to submit business plans and two were required to submit rehabilitation plants.

Those asked to submit business plans were: APC Group Inc.; Benguet Corp.; Cyber Bay Corp.; East Asia Power Resources Corp.; Fil-Estate Corp.; Gotesco Land Inc.; Island Information & Technology Inc.; MIC Holdings Corp.; Prime Media Holdings Inc.; Prime Orion Philippines Inc.; United Paragon Mining Corp.; Uniwide Holdings Inc. and Zeus Holdings Inc.

Asked to submit rehabilitation plans were Primetown Property Group Inc. and Victorias Milling Co. Inc.

"The need to review the status of the capital-deficient firms has gained added urgency after we in the PSE noted unusual price movements of stocks in our watch list," Lim said.

"The price hikes of some of the stocks were so abrupt that they even reached the limits of the trading band. Yet, some of them cannot explain the reason behind the sharp price movements," he added.

In line with this, the PSE is urging the public to exercise caution in picking their stock investments.

"I also asked our trading participants to properly guide their clients in their investment decisions," he said.

Three other companies have pending applications with the exchange to list additional shares, which are meant to address their capital deficiencies. These are: Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp.; Magnum Holdings Inc. and PAL Holdings Inc.

Lim said the exchange would initiate delisting proceedings against a capital deficient company that would fail either to submit a business plan or to provide a reasonable explanation for their failure to comply with the PSE order.

"But even those that would submit business or rehabilitation plans are not assured of retaining their status as listed companies, because that will depend on the viability and acceptability of their business or rehab plans," Lim stressed.

PSE's listing and disclosure rules state that an acceptable business or rehab plan must include details on how the affected firm intends to beef up its capital base and reverse the equity from negative to positive.

It must also include a list of a financial advisers, legal counsels, auditors and underwriters, and the relation of these advisers to the listed company.

The listing and disclosure rules also stipulate that, within one year from the submission of the business plan, the company must get the approvals from government agencies and/or its shareholders and approval in principle of creditors.

Aboitiz ...

From page B3

peak levels.

The plant is also a black-start facility in the region, which means it is a first option as source of electricity for immediate restoration of power in Northern Luzon in case of a local or system-wide blackout.

Under new management, the Magat plant is expected to create 50 new jobs that would be available to local residents, especially those from the host barangay of the same name.

SNAP is expected to make "a sizeable contribution" to a fund that the National Irrigation Administration could use for dam maintenance, watershed management and environmental protection.

The project qualifies for incentives under the 2006 Investment Priorities Plan heading "Energy, Power Generation," which covers such projects that use indigenous and renewable energy.

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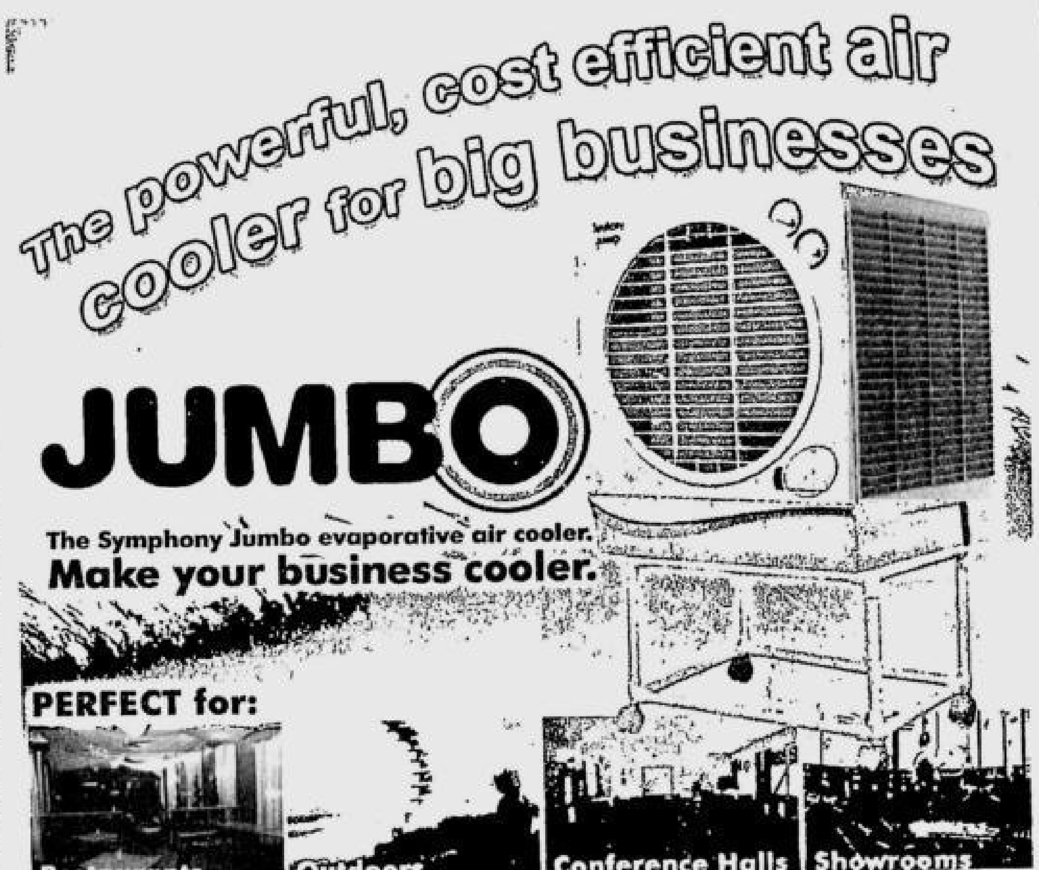

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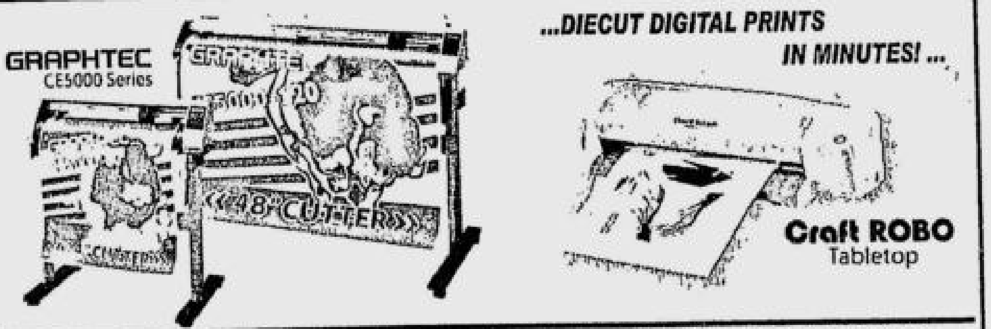

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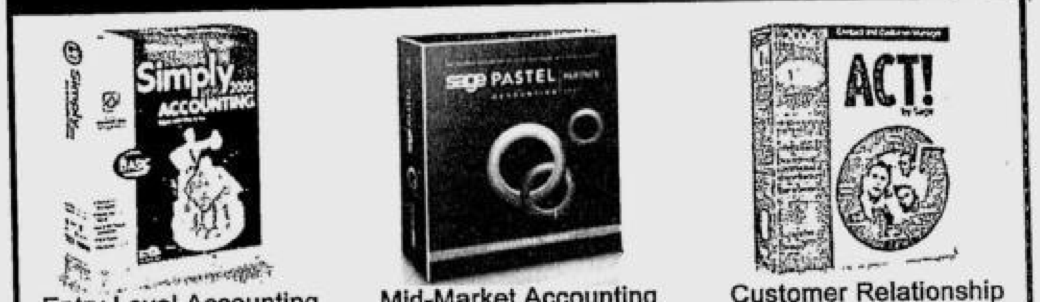

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Device ushers in newbies to 3G

LG KU250 comes in a simple candy bar design and has all the basic 3G features

By Riza T. Olchondra

FINALLY, AN AFFORDABLE 3G phone.

The KU250 by LG Electronics, touted as the first 3G phone that consumers in developing markets can afford, was chosen to lead the GSM Association's "3G for all" campaign to bring high-speed data outside its typical industrialized comfort zone—and with good reason.

With video calls priced at P6.50 per minute, or at the same level as an ordinary voice call, the phone's price tag of a little over P6,000 is expected to entice mobile subscribers to try 3G services.

The phone is not flashy, but has all the basic 3G features, including video calling and Internet browsing.

It comes in a simple candy bar design. Literally, it is the size of a narrow-cut chocolate bar.

Dressed in an elegant black shell, the sleek device is equipped with a dual camera. It can also be used for high-speed Internet access using 3G networks, either through the phone or by using the handset as a modem connected to a PC or a laptop.

The phone is 15mm thick and carries 10Mb of internal memory that can be augmented with a micro-SD card.

Packed inside the bar phone is an mp3 player and 1.3-megapixel digital camera that takes pretty decent pictures.

The handset supports video calls and the popular audio and video formats, and can take video and audio recordings.

There is no Qwerty keyboard or stylus here, just your basic navigation bar suited for first-time 3G users.

Always bring your charger around, though. The phone can last for days on standby power with very little use. But understandably, the use of its multimedia features, such as video calling and browsing, would use up a lot of power.

Pricing will likely vary from market to market, but the goal is to keep it cheap at more or less $100—pretty impressive considering the phone's video calling capability, media player with support for wireless applications, micro-SD expansion, and camera.

Twelve operators, including GSMA members Globe and Smart Communications Inc., consequently agreed to offer the LG KU250 in their respective markets.

Globe offers the phone with a prepaid kit at P6,250. The telco also has a promo for two prepaid kits for only P12,100, that translates to savings worth P400.

The premise is that users would appreciate the phone more if they had a significant other to video call with. Globe has set the price of video calls at the same level as voice calls.

Globe also bundled in Yahoo! mobile services to make it easier for people to search for and find better results and instant answers on their mobile devices using oneSearch.

Yahoo! oneSearch gives consumers access to news, images, finance, weather, Flickr™, Web and mobile Web results, with easy navigation to other Web sites.

For example, if someone wants to look for the latest information on a city, they just need to type "Manila" into the search box to receive relevant results based on their search queries such as weather, Flickr photos, Web images, latest news articles and more.

Rival operator Smart Communications has its own prepaid package, which retails at P6,290, and will make available Smart's numerous 3G services to a wide subscriber base. Using the KU 250 will also enable users to access Smart's full-track music downloads, video streaming, news and other services.

Postpaid packages from both operators are also available. With a feature-packed phone to try at an affordable price, 3G seems much more accessible.

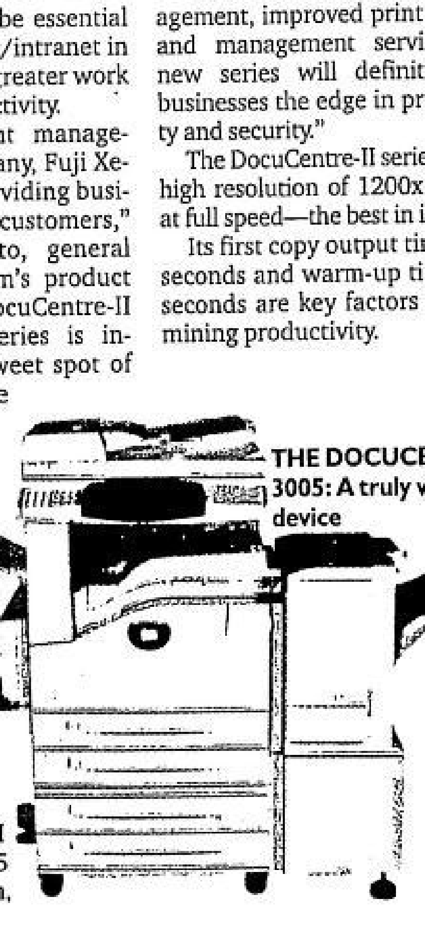
Fuji Xerox launches new multifunction machines

FUJI XEROX, THE DOCUMENT Company has launched three new monochrome multifunction devices under the DocuCentre-II series.

The series—DocuCentre-II 3005, DocuCentre-II 2055 and DocuCentre-II 2005—is for customers who demand high quality, volume and speedy printing in a multifunction device that enables high office productivity and superior network capabilities in a secure environment.

As businesses move toward globalization, the Web-based application and services of a multifunction device will be essential to access the Internet/intranet in a secure manner for greater work efficiency and productivity.

"As the document management solution company, Fuji Xerox is focused on providing business value to our customers," said Masahiko Saito, general manager of the firm's product division. "The DocuCentre-II 3005/2055/2005 series is intended to hit the sweet spot of customers whose business require high quality and high speed, volume, black and white printing; Web-based applications; and secure environment."



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"The Fuji Xerox DocuCentre-II series is borne out of our commitment to create real business value for our customers now and in the future," said Anna Q. Peñaflor, product manager, Fuji Xerox Philippines. "With its excellent features and enhanced software for document and workflow management, improved print security, and management services, the new series will definitely give businesses the edge in productivity and security."

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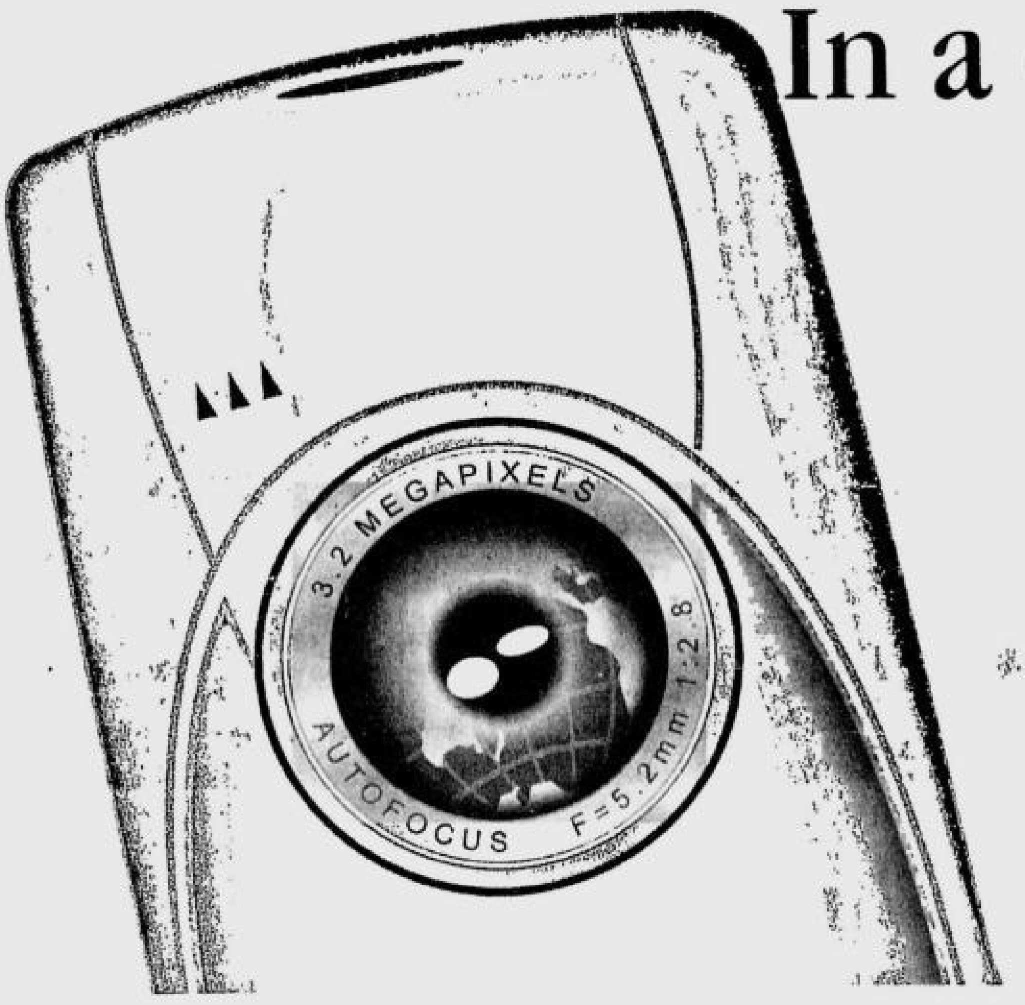

By Abigail L. Ho

SINCE THE 1800s, WHEN THE FIRST camera was invented, people the world over have been driven to record important and even not-so-important moments for posterity.

With the advent of the digital age, snap-happy individuals now have nifty digital cameras at their disposal, giving them a better excuse to record every detail of every moment of their lives.

What's even better is that cameras can now be found in almost all mobile phone models out in the market—from the low end to the high end.

According to US-based research and consulting firm Strategy Analytics, camera phone sales reached 500 million in 2006, from only 3 million in 2001. This year, unit sales are expected to breach the 1-billion mark.

"The camera phone market is now entering its third phase where the focus will move from megapixel and basic image enablement to the quality of the imaging experience," Strategy Analytics global wireless practice vice president David Kerr, said.

"In North America and Western Europe, one-megapixel devices are now table stakes, while niche devices with five megapixels or more will rise to over 2 percent of sales this year," he added. "Features such as zoom, flash and autofocus will become critical differentiators in 2008 and beyond."

Replacement sales for one-megapixel units and first camphone purchases will spur unit sales and revenue growth for the camphone sector this year.

Emphasis on enhanced imaging experience will cause the share of VGA camphones in the overall market to drop from 38 percent to less than 7 percent through 2011.

VGA camphones have a resolution of only 0.3 megapixels.

So far, Finnish handset manufacturer Nokia has a 28-percent share—the biggest chunk—of the global camphone market, with US vendor Motorola hot on its heels. Sony Ericsson, however, is trying to gain more traction in the market with the introduction of its Cyber-shot range.

By 2011, Strategy Analytics says, global camphone sales revenues will hit more than $120 billion and a third of the world's population will own a camphone.

Fuji Xerox launches new multifunction machines

From page B10

Diverse security features

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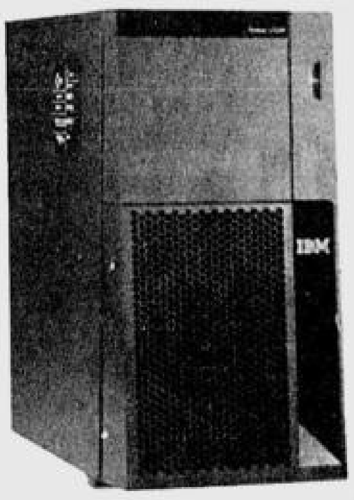

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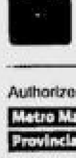
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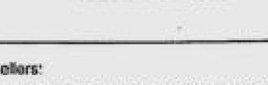
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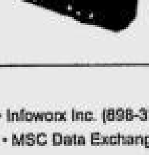
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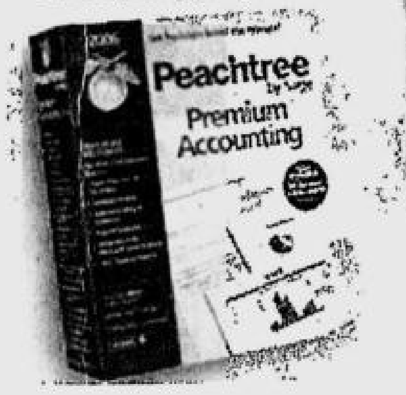

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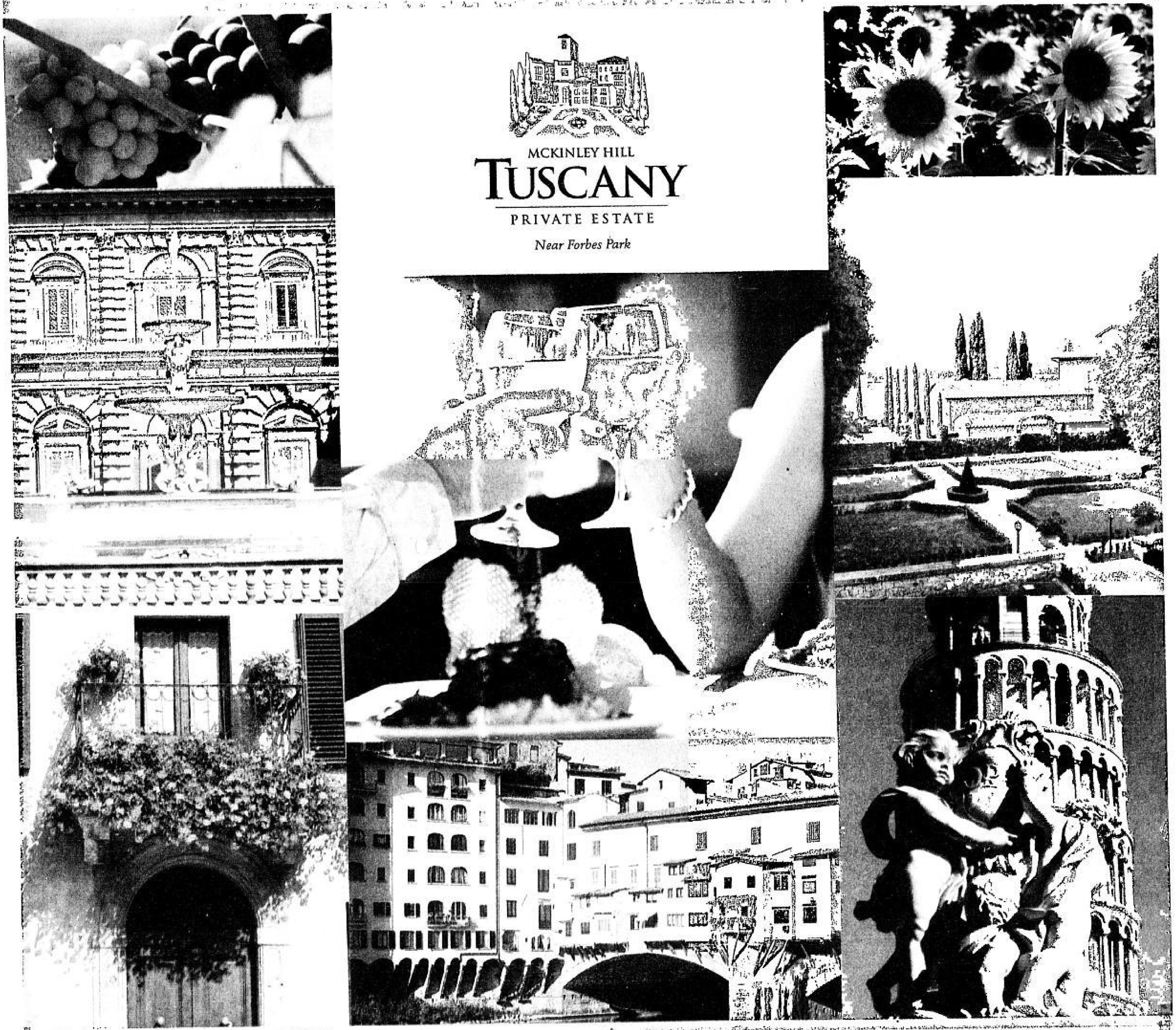

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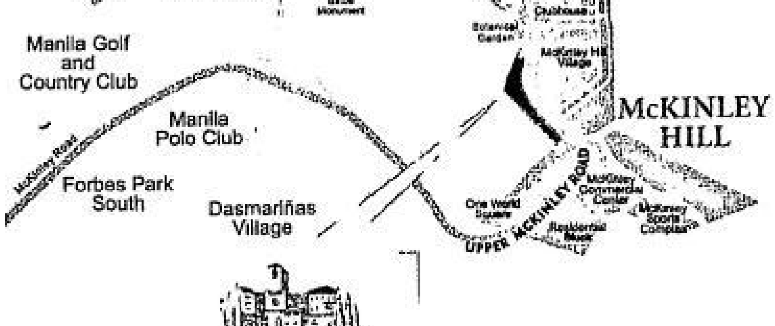

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Firms shift focus to triple bottom line

MEMBERS of the League of Corporate Foundations spend P1 to P2 Billion a year on education programs. RAFFY LERMA

By Gerry Asis
Contributor

LAST JUNE 4, APPROXIMATELY 12 MILLION public elementary school students nationwide trooped to their classrooms.

A lot of them faced the usual first day of school woes: Overcrowding in the classrooms, lack of desks, erroneous textbooks, triple class shifts … and the list goes on. Worse, statistics have shown that only six of 10 students will complete Grade 6.

The simplistic solution would be to continue building more classrooms, provide more desks, distribute more textbooks and so on. But given the limited resources vis-à-vis the rapid population growth, catching up with all these shortages will remain a challenge in this lifetime.

In the spirit of providing business solutions to social problems, the private sector led by the League of Corporate Foundations Inc. (LCF), has been seriously and strategically confronting such issues for many years now.

During the 2006 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Expo, the LCF rolled out the CSR Roadmap for Education, designed to make education reform a national priority.

Data from studies conducted by the LCF among its members and partners revealed that the private sector's annual contribution to public education averages between P1 and P2 billion a year, primarily through the Adopt-A-School Program of the Department of Education.

Given the magnitude of hard-earned private sector resources allocated to a public concern, corporate giving patterns have taken a strategic shift with "resources for results" as the battle cry.

It is no longer simply enough to donate to public schools, build classrooms and libraries, implement feeding programs and so forth.

There are higher expectations to deliver results and to commit to performance contracts.

In September 2006, the LCF and the DepEd relaunched the Adopt-A-School Program.

Reversing the crisis

Today, the LCF's 80-strong membership base, together with private sector organizations including the Management Association of the Philippines, Personnel Management Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives of the Philippines, the Makati Business Club, among others, continues to support genuine education reform.

FIRMS/ B2-3

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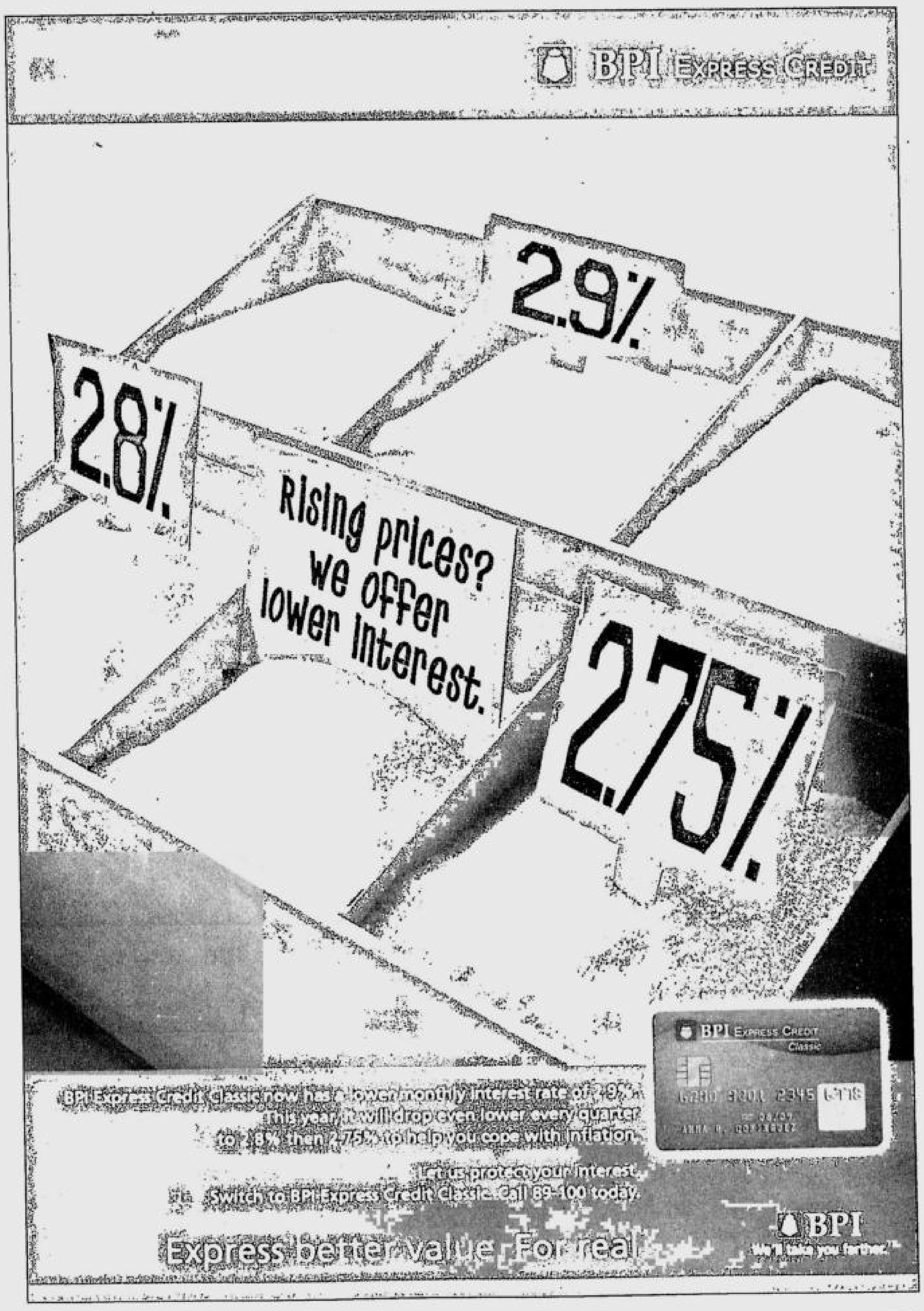

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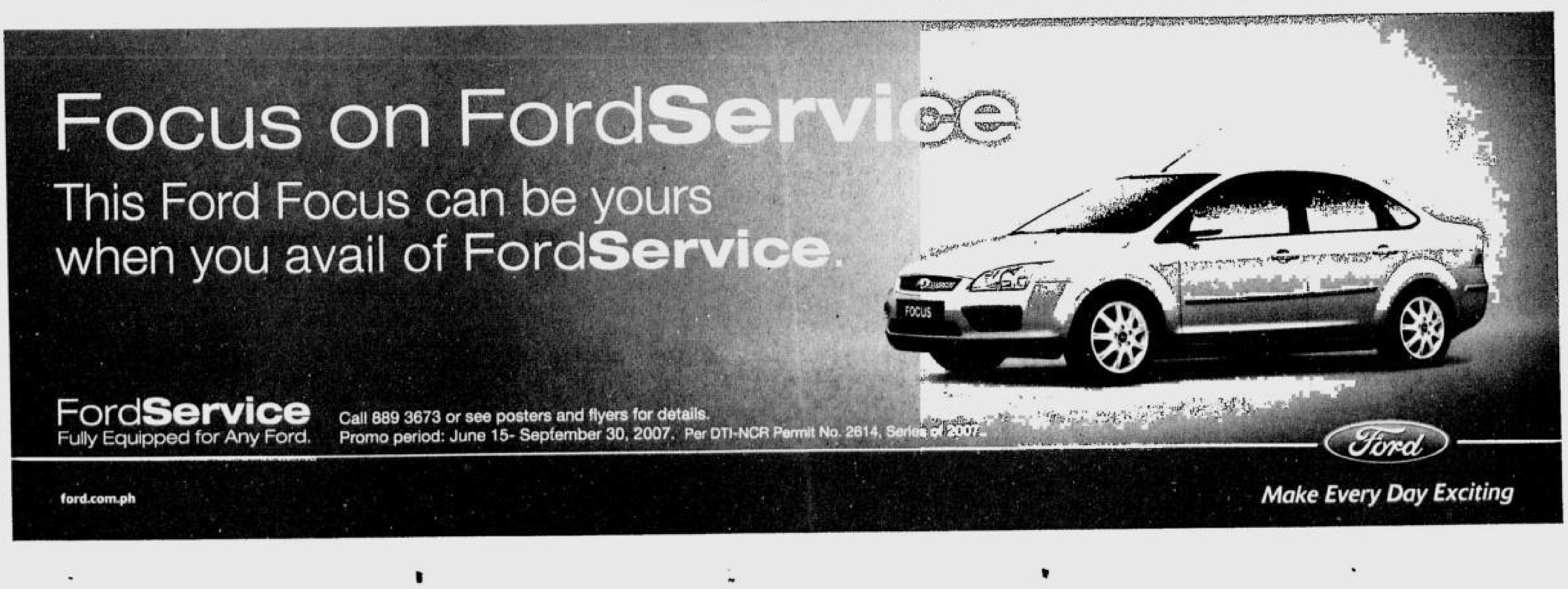

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STANDARD Chartered Bank executives and employees in the Philippines and Korea pose in front of the Aeta school .

STANDARD'S Park strikes friendship with an Aeta girl.

SMILES bond the Aeta children and a Korean.

Execs in awe of Aetas' will to live, learn

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

BAMBAN, TARLAC—SONG WON Kang was all smiles as he handed out big, red plastic bags of art materials, school supplies and toiletries to 30 Aeta children cramped in a *sawali*-walled classroom during a recent visit here.

Song, 45, a manager at the credit card division of the Standard Chartered Korea First Bank, also shook hands and greeted the children.

"*Ano'ng pangalan mo* (What's your name)?" Song asked a wide-eyed girl. Getting no answer, he sat beside her and prodded her to give her name. When she finally did, Song gave her high fives. Laughter followed.

Equal ease

In three adjacent rooms, Song's younger colleagues—10 Koreans, six Canadians and a Dutch—did the same with equal ease. The activity resulted in lively interactions.

Before classes closed by noon, Song's group gave P60,000 to Dr. Catherine Ramos, coordinator of the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples in Central Luzon.

The NCIP, Ramos said, would use the money for the repair of the six classrooms that the Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) Philippines built in 2003 in coordination with the Entrepreneurs Volunteers Assistance Charity Foundation.

It was the second school building that the bank had built in the upland village of San Martin, which 140 Aeta families had rebuilt five years after the 1991 eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo, village chief Oscar Dizon said.

SCB Philippines built the first school building of only one classroom in 2001, said Annie Gonzales, head of the bank's human resources development division.

Dizon said the bank's educational support program in the last six years has enabled the Department of Education to hold regular classes and admit pupils in Grades 4 to 6.

A BANKING executive tries his hand on the shovel to prepare the seed beds.

Impromptu shows

The students staged impromptu shows to thank their visitors. With their teacher producing the sounds by beating a tin cup with a metal spoon, three Aeta girls and three boys performed a tribal dance that portrayed the movements of birds and monkeys.

The troupe sang a prayer in the tribe's language in gratitude for the goodwill of new supporters.

The foreigners clapped in appreciation and some even approached the performers to praise their talent and thank them for sharing their culture.

Learning

The counterpart of Gonzales in Korea, Young Kug Lee, said Song's group has pooled $3,000 (P138,000) in donations to provide school materials for 104 students, vegetable seeds for their families and for the repair of the classrooms.

They also helped out in the mountain farms, pulling the weeds in corn plots and preparing beds for the seeds either with their bare hands or farming tools.

As they did these altogether, Dizon spoke of why there are no carabaos or even farming equipment in the village.

"Mt. Pinatubo destroyed everything," Dizon said in English, a language he learned from American soldiers who trained before in the jungles of Pinatubo.

Hard life

He related how they fled from the wrath of the volcano, the hard life they had at the evacuation centers and their decision to go back to San Martin than die from hunger or live a life of begging in the lowlands.

Dizon told of how the San Martin Multipurpose Cooperative managed to buy a used Isuzu Elf truck from out of their savings and how that vehicle has helped them in bringing their produce to the market in the lowlands, ending the control of middlemen in the trade.

They have also reforested 280 hectares with mangoes and wood trees with the help of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Amazed

The foreigners listened, some of them amazed at the Aeta's grit to survive.

AETA kids share their culture before guests from Standard Chartered.

Young said he was happy with their first community service work in the Philippines.

This was no one-shot effort, Young said. Three more batches from the bank's South Korea's office are coming soon to help out in San Martin.

Song said he felt sad about the poverty that he saw in the village. He said his group planned to do its bit to ease that by helping send to college some Aeta in the next three years.

Interactions

The interactions, community work and civic-mindedness were the ways of SCB Philippines in introducing the concepts of corporate social responsibility to its counterpart in South Korea, Gonzales said.

Young said the CSR module, which they learned in the community, was part of the batch's learning development program from May 27 up to June 23.

"There's cross-cultural awareness, knowing the business, learning English and also CSR," he said.

The program was crafted by SCB Philippines and Korea under Mark Daldorf.

There are things more important than the rise and fall of a company's annual yields.

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- Stakeholder Engagement: The Guimaras Case
- Launching of the CSR Institute: A Flagship Program of the LCF
- The Global Reporting Initiative

CREATING A CORPORATE SOCIAL VISION
- Global Trends in CSR and Philanthropy: Creating Shared Values
- Sharing the Corporate Social Vision in Education: The 57-75 Campaign
- A CEO's Perspective: Creating A Corporate Social Vision (luncheon - by invitation)

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- Finding a Fit to the 57-75 Campaign in Health, Entrepreneurship, Arts and Culture, and Education
- Sharing the Corporate Social Vision-Consortium Building in Health, Entrepreneurship, Youth, and Education
- Eco-Tourism: Preserving Our National Treasures
- Waste Diversion: Don't Let Your Waste Go to Waste
- Save Money and Save the Earth
- Financing for Sustainable Development
- Water, Waste Water, and Sanitation Management
- Clean Air: Living to Breathe
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Corporate social responsibility for small and big business

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Pacita U. Juan

IT DOES NOT TAKE SIZE TO BE A "do-gooder." Even small- and medium-sized companies can and should engage in Corporate Social Responsibility projects. It does not take a lot of money, nor massive resources to engage in CSR. All you need is the will to make a difference.

Why engage in CSR? Do companies do it merely as a PR tool? Do they do it to pay back for "sins" they may have committed vs. the environment or society? Do they do it merely to comply with some laws required in the industry they are in?

I believe that CSR is man's answer to "good karma." If you do well, you can do good. Man is naturally good. Human nature allows us to do good when we feel good or when we do well.

In the vernacular, "*patalbos*" (pruning) is a Filipino trait passed on from our forefathers. If you prune a tree, the more it produces. So maybe CSR could be considered like "pruning" the business tree. The better off you are, the more good you want to do.

How does one start a CSR program or activity?

First, convince yourself that you want to do it for the long haul. CSR is NOT Philanthropy. CSR is a sustainable activity that benefits your employees, your stakeholders, your community and ultimately the country if not yet the world.

Second, choose a program or activity that will benefit your core business stakeholders.

Everyone who has some connection to the very business that makes you do well is a potential beneficiary or partner.

Differentiating from philanthropy, again CSR must benefit people your business knows or are aligned with.

Yes, its time for the left hand to know what the right hand is doing.

It is fine to have "vested interest" so that one can sustain the very program he chooses to adopt. Why support a cause that is so far removed from your business? How do you sustain the activity if it does not make good business sense?

Third, rally your managers around your cause. It is not enough that the CEO believes in his pet project. The CFO must support it with funds, the HR manager must get volunteers from the workforce, the marketing manager must see the role of CSR in his activities, too.

It is not a requirement to put up a foundation separate from the principal company to do CSR. Even associations, rotary clubs, any aggrupation for that matter can band together and do CSR activities.

A group of SME Franchisors under the banner of Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. (Affi) gave their most valuable resource, time, to mentoring college students in their association's expertise which is entrepreneurship.

That is CSR without money, and without necessarily forming a foundation.

Fourth, keep it going. CSR is not a one-time deal. Ideally, a good program is sustainable over time. The CSR program may outlive the CEO, the CFO and it can go through different administrations and then become institutionalized.

Where does one start? The League of Corporate Foundations will be launching the CSR Institute during its Annual Expo on July 16 to 18 at the Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

There will be free courses on CSR 101, sharing best practice in CSR and other activities that will help a company launch its CSR programs. Log on to www.csrexpo2007.net for more information.

The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) will also be launching the CSR Awards at the same event in a joint meeting with the Makati Business Club and the LCF during the Luncheon Plenary on July 16.

CSR is not just a fad or a buzzword. It is a concern CEOs would like to know more about but were afraid to ask. Now is the time to think of getting into it. Not just to be in, but to make that difference. To leave a legacy in your company. And in so doing, helping your company change the world.

(Pacita "Chit" U. Juan is a governor of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) and a trustee of the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF). Her other job is CEO of the Figaro Coffee Company, an SME with a small Figaro Foundation Corporation, whose main CSR activity is to help coffee farmers live a better life. Her latest project is the Environment Day of the LCF Expo on July 18, 2007 where an Invitational "Green Lunch" is being served to launch the LCF "Green FUND" for the Environment. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

Firms shift focus ...

From page B2-1

Together with groups like the Synergia, the Foundation for Worldwide People Power, the Philippine Business for Education and the Philippine Business for Social Progress, the LCF also rolled out the 57-75 Multisectoral Campaign for Reversing the Education Crisis.

The campaign calls for a systemic private sector-led response to education issues of access, quality and retention. It elicits accountability from schools and requires community participation in school management.

The CSR Roadmap for Education, complemented by the 57-75 Campaign, has became an important rallying point for the private sector.

It spelled out the "Triple Bottom Line for Education."

Simply put, the triple bottom line focuses on profit or the financial bottom line—are we doing well financially?; people or the social/community bottom line—are we making a positive impact in our immediate workplaces, in the communities within our local areas of operation; and the planet or the environmental bottom line—are we harming the earth or contributing to our only planet's sustainability?

Urgent reforms

Through the 57-75 Campaign, a Triple Bottom Line Approach to Education reform was made possible.

It provided a platform for the private sector to get its act together and provide system-wide solutions to the challenges posed by the public school sector.

The first bottom line is retention (Are the students staying in school? Have the dropout rates decreased? Next bottom line is comprehension (Are the children learning what they are truly supposed to learn? Are the pedagogical approaches in the classroom designed to ensure quality learning?); and finally there is the third bottom line of achievement (Are all such inputs translating into higher test scores and brighter, more knowledgeable students?).

This Triple Bottom Line Approach to Education reform serves as a strategic approach toward ensuring that measurable results and outcomes in the education sector are brought about and sustained. It calls attention to what the private sector should be offering: Resources for results.

Time has come for LCF to once again mount the annual CSR Expo come July 16-18, 2007. Many business groups are now "walking the talk," agreeing to ask the hard questions and to put their CSR to the test.

The LCF's committee on education, working its many partners in the private sector and the Task Force 57-75 continues to champion genuine education reform through strategic Corporate Social Responsibility.

For its part, the Department of Education has also been painstakingly trying to introduce a basic social education reform agenda and school-based management strategies.

The Triple Bottom Line for Education is a call to action ... to erase ignorance, to sharpen the Filipino child's mind and to rewrite the future of the Filipino child.

During the CSR Expo '07, scores of private sector education champions will converge once again, to make sure that this time around, more than six out of 10 public elementary school students will graduate from elementary and continue on to high school and earn a college degree.

Private sector is continually making an investment in the Filipino child—our future education champions, our future workforce, our future CEOs and leaders.

(Gerry de Asis is the chair of the LCF Committee on Education and is the e-Media Program Development Manager of ABS-CBN Foundation.)

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As a result, data center managers face several challenges in fulfilling these goals. One of these challenges is the pressure on IT infrastructure to keep up and maintain high availability and continuity.

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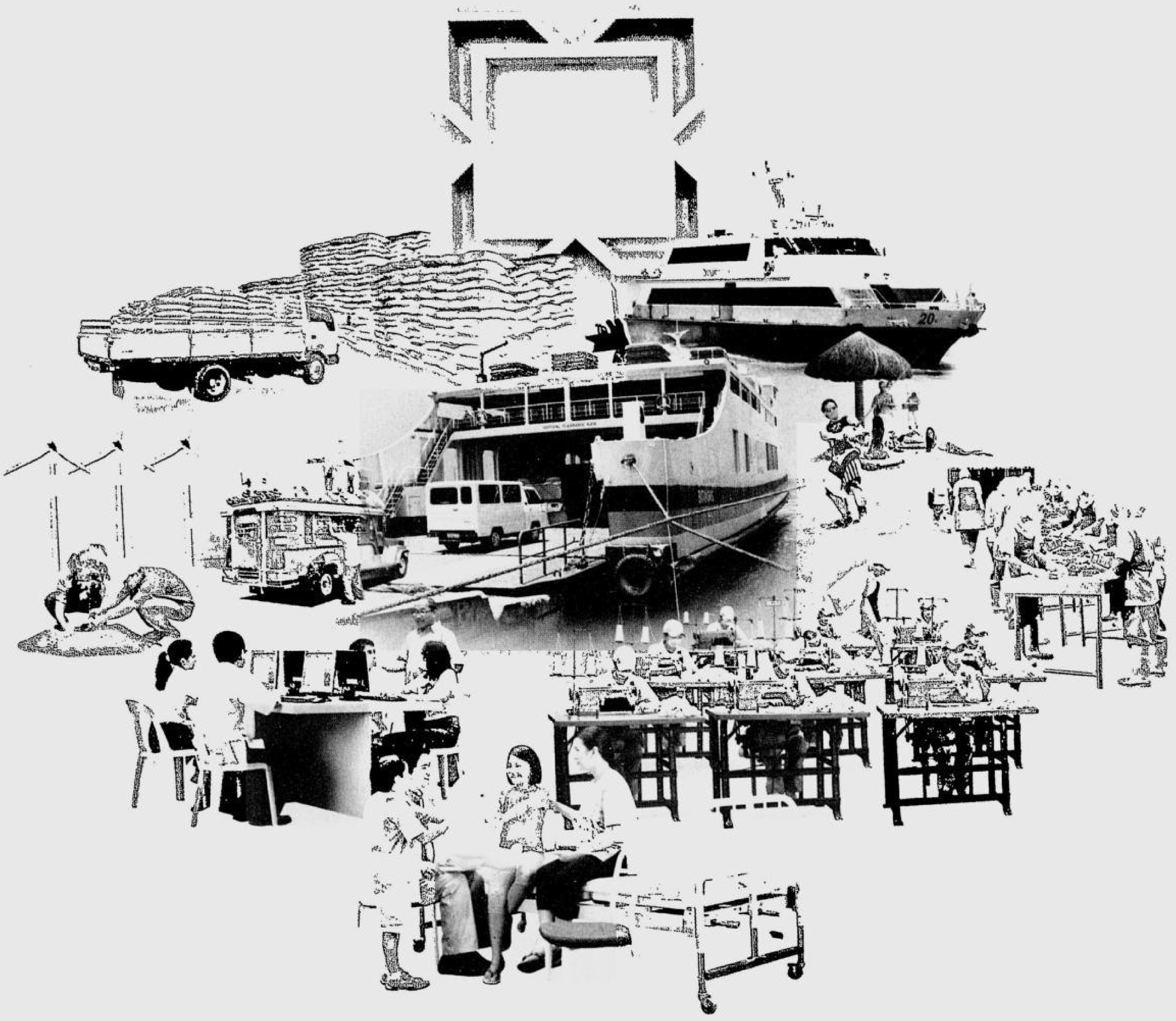

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Thai group weighs cost of progress

NGO tips scale toward earth-friendly dealings

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

KANCHANABURI, THAILAND—Thirsty? Think first. Should you serve bottled water? Or maybe you can just fill up a water container and use glasses?

Using batteries? Perhaps you can just plug in the gadget and use electricity instead.

Changing light bulbs? Incandescent bulbs use up much energy, generating 95 percent heat and only 5 percent light.

You may want to consider more energy-efficient light bulbs like compact fluorescent lamps in the market.

In this province, a nongovernment organization had set up a training camp to teach people to start thinking twice.

"We want people to think first before buying things," said ecology professor Sansanee Keeratiwiriyaporn, who oversees operations of the camp. "Do they really need these items? Can they be recycled?"

Advocacy

The Ruam Tawan Center, located near large dams in this lush province, was built seven years ago to provide a home for the advocacy of the Association for the Development of Environmental Quality, composed of many professors, who saw the need to increase awareness about taking care of nature as early as 1988.

It was the economic boom in Thailand that prompted the group to think twice.

Although progress is a welcome change, it has also also given birth to environmental problems.

"The energy consumption of the industrial sector is higher than the agricultural sector," Keeratiwiriyaporn told the INQUIRER. "People now have a higher standard of living. We don't blame them if they want a higher quality of life. But if you have, say, a refrigerator, you have to use it properly."

To match higher energy consumption of a population getting more and more accustomed to using air-conditioners, huge television sets and other advanced appliances to make life easier, governments are building more and more dams for more and more power plants.

More and more dams

These damage the environment by submerging forest lands and displacing wildlife, Keerati-

THAI / B3-2

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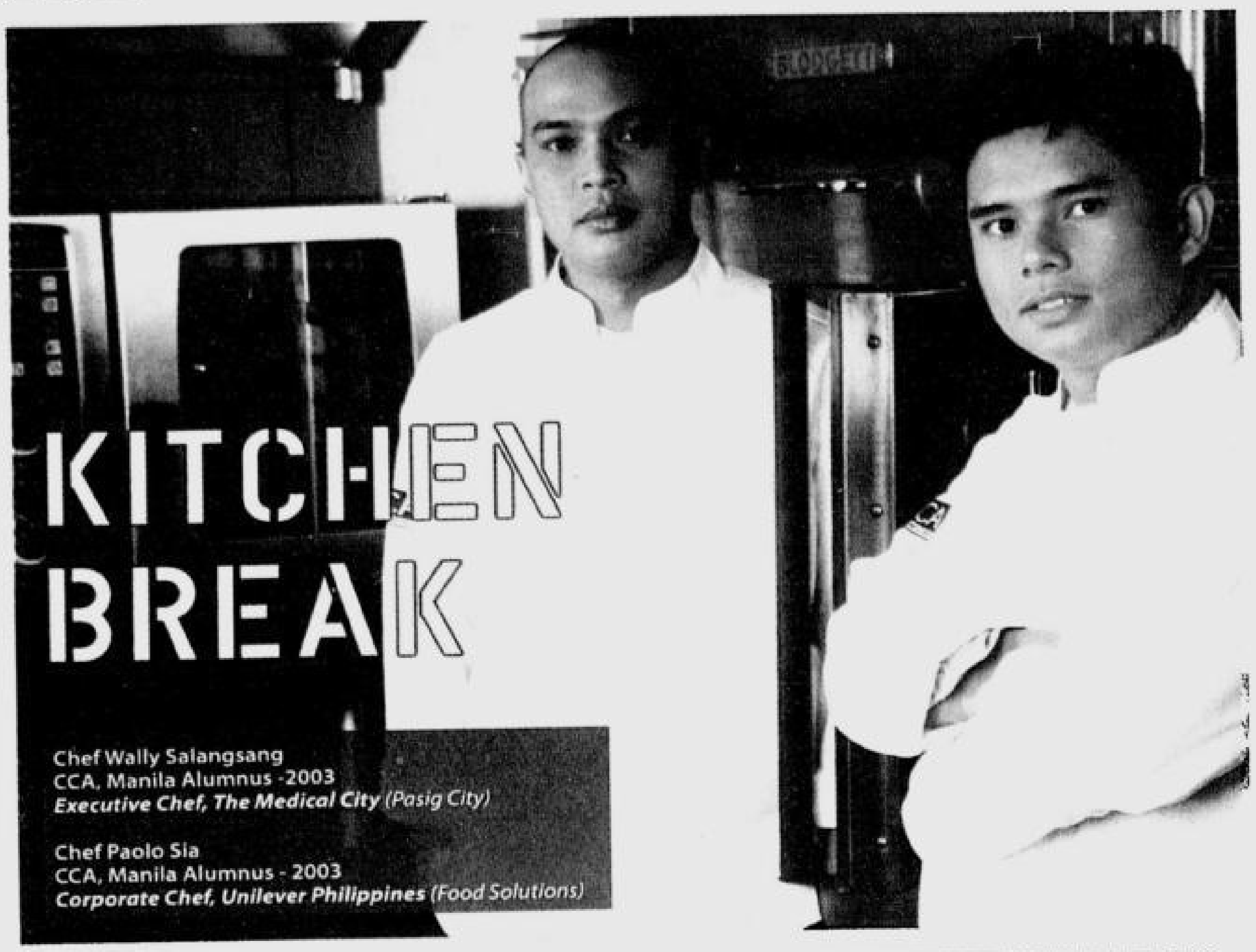

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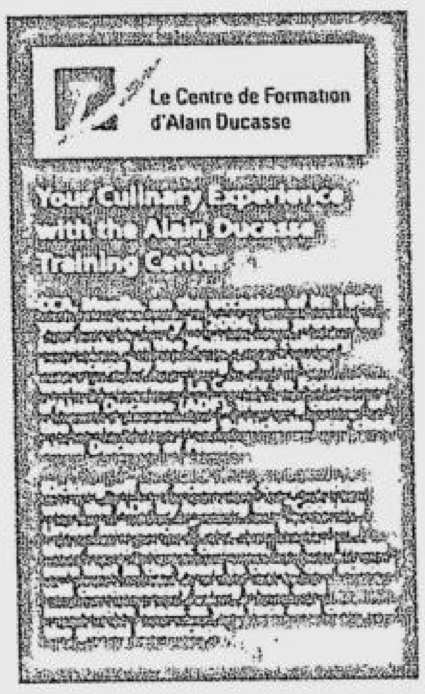
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BY EMILIO MACASAET III
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Other seminars for July 2007:
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(by Rowen Untivero) July 05-06, 2007
7th Managing a Successful Distributor Operation
(by Emilio Macasaet III) July 18-19, 2007
Place Strategy: The Missing Piece in the Marketing Plan
(by Emilio Macasaet III) July 27, 2007

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Nonstock is not 'no tax'

Corporate Securities Info
Raul Palabrica

MENTION THE WORDS "NONSTOCK, nonprofit corporation" and the first thing that usually comes to mind is tax exemption.

A lot of people are under the impression that a nonstock corporation has the right not to pay taxes to the government.

Last week, I chanced upon a radio interview of a city treasurer blaming the nonstock status of the corporations operating in his area of responsibility for his low tax collection.

His statement did not come to me as a surprise.

There has been a lot of misinformation and confusion about the alleged tax privileges of nonstock corporations.

Let's set the record straight.

The "nonstock, nonprofit" description is reserved for corporations that are organized for any of the following purposes: Religious, charitable, scientific, athletic, cultural, rehabilitation of veterans and social welfare.

Consistent with these lofty objectives, the law requires that no part of the net income or assets of these corporations shall become the property or inure to the benefit of any member, organizer, officer or specific person.

Registration

If these requirements are met and the corporation is adequately capitalized, the Securities and Exchange Commission is obliged to issue the certificate of registration applied for unless it has strong reasons to withhold it.

At the initial stage of its operation, a nonstock corporation is no different from a stock corporation with regard to tax obligations.

The nonstock corporation has to pay income tax for its earnings.

And if it is the beneficiary of donations, the corresponding donor's tax should be paid.

To gain the privilege of exemption from these taxes, a nonstock corporation must be accredited by the Bureau of Internal Revenue as a qualified-donee institution.

Aware of the misuse by some unscrupulous parties of the nonstock standing of corporations, the BIR, on Dec. 8, 1998, issued Revenue Regulations No. 13-98.

The regulations spell out the criteria to be met and procedures to be followed by nonstock corporations to gain tax exemption.

The primary task of implementing these rules rests with the "accrediting entity," or a nonstock, nonprofit corporation composed of nongovernment organization networks, designated by the Secretary of Finance.

The accrediting entity reviews and evaluates the credentials of nonstock corporations that apply for accreditation.

Accreditation

An applicant for accreditation has to submit, among others, its articles of incorporation and bylaws, plan of action, list of projects or activities for the past two years and source of funds.

Upon the submission of these documents, the officers of the corporation have to appear personally before the accrediting entity to prove the corporation's qualification for accreditation.

I have had occasion in the past to appear before the accrediting entity in connection with a nonstock corporation that I was once an officer and the experience was not a walk in the park.

The accrediting panel grilled me and my fellow officers on our program of activities. It was a somber, but no-holds-barred, interrogation.

The panel members were veteran NGO participants.

They knew the "dark secrets" of organizations that claim to espouse social and civic causes.

And they subtlety sent the message that they cannot be played around.

The panel has to make sure the applicant is sincere in the pursuit of its social objectives, and that it will not use its funds for purposes other than what it has committed to accomplish.

Because tax exemption means a loss of revenue to the government, the BIR is strict in the interpretation and implementation of its accreditation rules.

No wonder the list of qualified-donee institutions is quite short.

Monitoring

If the corporation is accredited, the BIR will allow it to accept donations without the donor having to pay the donor's tax and the latter can treat the donation as an expense in its income tax returns.

The expense deduction will reduce the donor's income tax obligation.

When the accredited corporation files its income tax returns, it must attach the papers that will show that the donations it received are properly documented and their proceeds applied to the approved beneficiaries.

Failure to comply with the reporting requirements could result in the withdrawal of the accreditation and, if warranted, payment of delinquent income and donor's taxes.

The accreditation is not a one-shot affair. It is monitored and reviewed periodically by the BIR to make sure the tax privilege is not abused.

So next time somebody tells you that the nonstock corporation he represents enjoys certain tax privileges, ask for a copy of his certificate of accreditation as a qualified donee-institution, then check with the BIR if that certificate is still valid and subsisting.

Incidentally, the accreditation that my former organization applied for was denied by the BIR for failure to meet its standards. Tough luck. *(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.)*

Cosmetic and skin-care product formulation workshop

TIRED OF THE HIGH-PRICED SKIN CARE products from supermarkets and derm clinics?

Learn how to make dermatological products and reduce your purchases of the expensive brands—and make money on the side, too.

The Golden Treasures Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on cosmetics and skin-care formulations at the Vermont Blooms Unlimited on 9 Anonas Road, Project 3, Quezon City on July 7, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials and costing also paticipants will undergo hands-on training and will get to experience how to formulate hand and body lotion, whitening lotion, toner, organic lipstick, facial cream, body talc powder, loose powder, deodorant powder, foot powder, massage gel, massage oil with aromatherapy, facial clay mask, herbal mask, hair hot oil treatment formulation with aromatherapy.

All the materials will be provided included lunch and snacks and hand-outs. Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. For reservations, call 952-40-28, 436-78-26, 913-65-51 and 421-15-77.

Thai group weighs cost …

From page B3-1

wiriyaporn said.

There are already over 30 major dams in Thailand and forest lands are becoming more and more scarce, added Keeratiwiriyaporn, who teaches systems dynamics at the Mahidol University.

Not much land

"We no longer have much forest land," she said. "We need it to protect it."

The center offers various workshops for different groups.

It has administered workshops for elementary students as well as for government officials, who are now getting more and more concerned about the environment amid the alarming climate change.

The national government here had also enacted energy conservation policies just recently to address the rising prices of oil, Keeratiwiriyaporn said.

Ruam Tawan Center has 16 learning stations, each housed in a classroom, with exhibits on various environmental issues, like energy efficiency in transportation, as well as water and energy conservation.

Not for free

The last room is filled with different kinds of light bulbs and there is a trainer to explain the energy consumption of each.

It gets to organize about five three-day workshops every month with at least 60 participants per session.

It is not for free though. The center charges 1,000 to 2,000 Baht for a three-day stay.

The fees are used to pay the salary of staff members and maintenance of the center, Keeratiwiriyaporn said.

.Her vision is for the center to earn more funds to be able to offer subsidized sessions for poor residents.

Lessons on conservation

It was in the Ruam Tawan Center where 27 students from nine countries—including the Philippines—who joined the week-long water sustainability forum here, stayed.

The forum was sponsored by multinational company Bayer, which produces medicines and pesticides.

The delegates came home with lessons on energy conservation, which they received even while they were having lunch and dinner at the center's dining hall.

They are all required to take off their shoes and slippers when entering the hall.

The reason is quite simple: Keeping the hall clean will save the center from always cleaning the floor, thus saving on energy and water, Keeratiwiriyaporn said with a smile.

Responsible mining program takes root

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SKILLED miners at work in Benguet

Text and Photos by Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

Conclusion

ITOGON, BENGUET—FORMER employees of Benguet Corp., one of the country's oldest mining companies, have done their share in pushing the firm's commitment towards responsible mining.

The Acupan contract mining project has 14 contractors working on 18 contract areas within Benguet Corp.'s mining claims.

The contractors, many of them retrenched personnel and former workers, employ small-scale miners who operate what are called "on-vein" tunnels.

Each contractor employs as many as 70 to 100 workers, many of them skilled miners.

Under a 60-40 sharing agreement (60 percent for contractor and miners, and 40 percent for company), the scheme is considered by company officials as a "win-win" arrangement.

Contractors usually get 10 percent and miners get 50 percent. Both contractors and miners, says a contractor, are happy with the scheme.

Through its own workforce, Benguet Corp.'s operations used to be large scale, producing 3,500 tons of ore daily. But after a strong earthquake in 1990, the underground tunnels at Acupan got flooded.

The price of gold at that time also dipped to as low as P260 an ounce. These factors prompted management to suspend the company's operations in 1992.

The company retrenched and paid the separation benefits of 8,000 workers, leaving only a skeletal force to take care and guard facilities and structures such as its buildings, mills, tunnels and drainage systems.

With nowhere to go, some workers asked the company to allow them to stay and to engage in small-scale mining within the company's mining claims.

From 1992 to 2001, the company had no production.

Meantime, those allowed to engage in small-scale mining were already intruding into the tunnels of the company. These small miners were using cyanide, mercury and other toxic substances, which would end up into the river.

Given all these developments, the company sought to regain control of its mine site and offered a partnership agreement with the small-scale miners.

The miners, through their community cooperative, finally struck an agreement with the company.

Sharing agreement

For the first year, both parties began with a sharing scheme through royalties. But since 2002, both parties have ironed out a 60-40 sharing agreement.

The contractors and their workers are also oriented about the company's environmental management system (EMS).

As required under the EMS, each contractor has to build a tailings pond where all wastes from the ball mill are deposited.

Once drained and dried, the wastes from the pond are collected again and processed at the carbon-in-pulp mill of the company.

As part of the agreement, miners and contractors pay P4 a sack as rent for materials processed at the company's mill.

Besides the contractors and workers, the company seeks to spread the EMS rules and principles to the community.

Ma. Mignon de Leon, a Benguet Corp. official, says the company would meet quarterly with village officials to plan for a long-term environmental agenda for the whole community.

Part of the initial agenda would be developing information-education-communication modules on EMS.

The company will spend more than P5 million for this endeavor but it does not mind the cost. "This is actually an investment," says Pete Cancino, mines environmental protection and environment officer of Benguet Corp.'s Benguet Gold Operation.

Making money ...

From page B3-4

But as other materials like glass, paper or bio-waste get mixed into the heap frequently, the facility still sorts them out to make more money.

For instance, a sister company in Beselich near Frankfurt operates a state-of-the-art washing and processing plant for bottles.

Profitable business

"Business is very profitable and the price of what you have as output is increasing," Alba spokesperson Barbel Naether told a group of visiting journalists from developing countries of Asia and Africa.

The Alba group has a three-year license to sell recycled materials out of garbage collections in Berlin and another federal state.

The segregation facility is like a big factory with automated moving panels—like the flat walkers seen in big airports—where tons of garbage undergo different screening procedures so that in the end, Alba extracts only the materials which are reusable.

Each year, Alba takes in 115,000 tons of Berlin's yellow bin garbage, or an average of about 25 kg per Berliner.

About 75 percent of this rubbish yields materials for recycling. Plastics account for the lion's share of Alba's sifted output at 40-45 percent.

The rest consists of tins, aluminum, tetra packs and non-iron metal.

Fascinating equipment

A guided tour of the 3,000-square meter Mahlsdorf facility showed how metals like tin cans and bottle crowns, for instance, can be mined out of tons of garbage using a magnetic rolling pin machine.

But the most fascinating piece of equipment is a cylindrical machine, a little like a CT scan, which uses laser to sort plastics by weight—to separate those used for lightweight packaging from the heavier plastic materials.

The segregation by weight is important because each specific plastic material commands different prices.

PET plastic, or polyethylene terephthalate, is the most valuable of all plastic materials. It is a form of polyester used to make strong, lightweight, shatter-resistant bottles for soft drinks, water, juice, liquor, and numerous other food and non-food products, such as cough syrup, tennis balls and cleaning products.

A ton of reusable PET can be sold for about 600-700 euros.

To date, Alba's Mahlsdorf plant operates at more than its capacity, working overtime even on weekends.

The facility is automated but it still employs 50 people to work in shifts, mostly for quality control.

One person has to make sure that the machines are running properly, one has to supervise the whole facility via TV monitors scattered across the compound while about 13 people have to manually check the final output.

Earning ways

The Alba group earns in two ways. First, it receives fees from Germany's quasi-government entity Duales System Deutscheland GmbH which awards the license in the first place. It also earns from selling the recycled materials.

Alba has a commitment to recycle 65 percent of the garbage collection.

The Mahlsdorf facility easily exceeds this quota by about 15 percent, as some Berliners still throw out materials that are not supposed to go to the yellow bin.

Alba expects to break even in seven to eight years and plans to make inroads into neighboring states like France.

Envy and wishful thinking

Any Filipino who is so used to seeing enormous stinky dumps like the Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila or in Payatas in Quezon City, will never look at garbage the same way again after touring the Mahlsdof facility.

The experience elicits a mix of envy and wishful thinking that the Philippines could someday afford to invest or attract private investments in such a state-of-the-art urban mining facility, as the technology offers an easy, albeit capital-intensive, solution to the growing garbage problem in Metro Manila.

But the recycling system in Germany is anchored on a collective mindset that the Philippines doesn't have yet: Embracing waste segregation as a way of life right at the micro- or household level.

Without such a consciousness, an investor won't likely make any money out of his P1 billion—the equivalent in Philippine currency—needed to build the urban mining facility.

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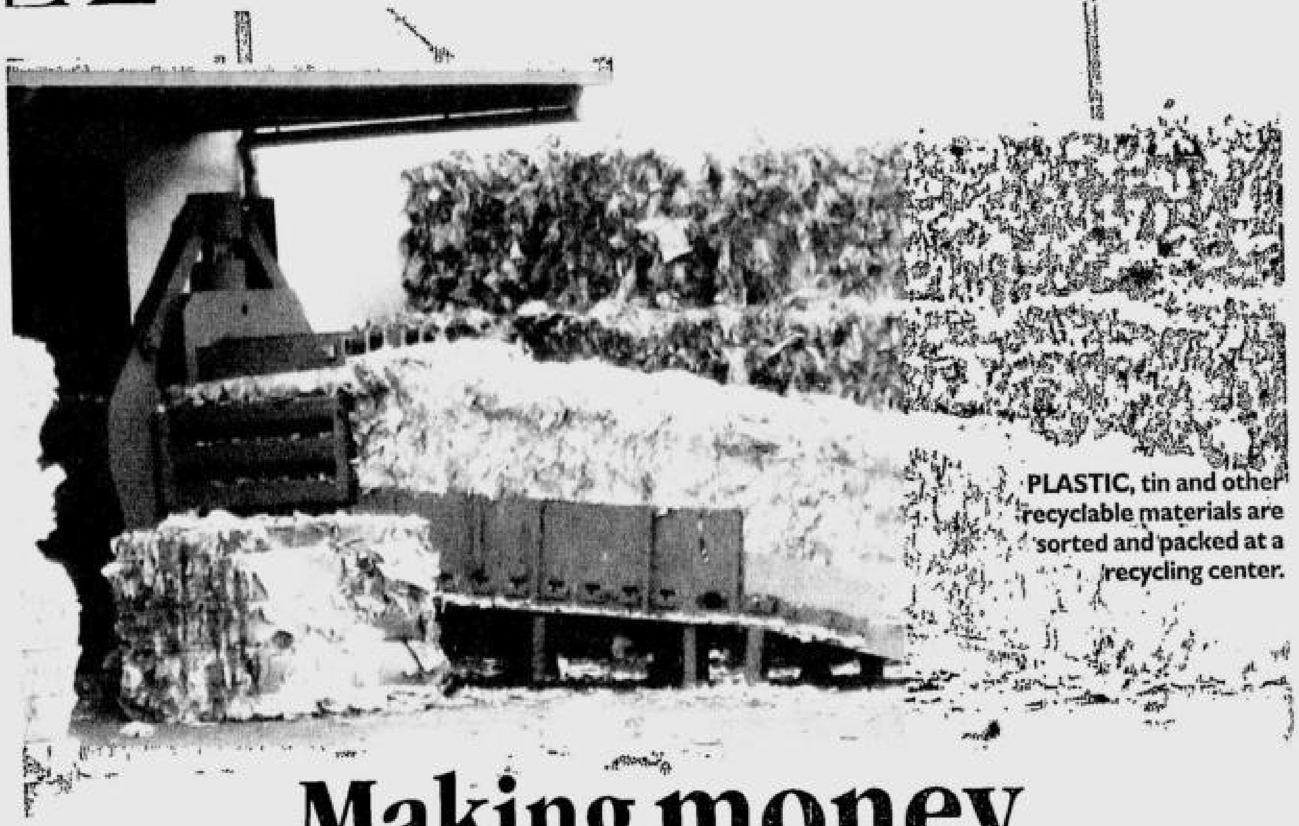
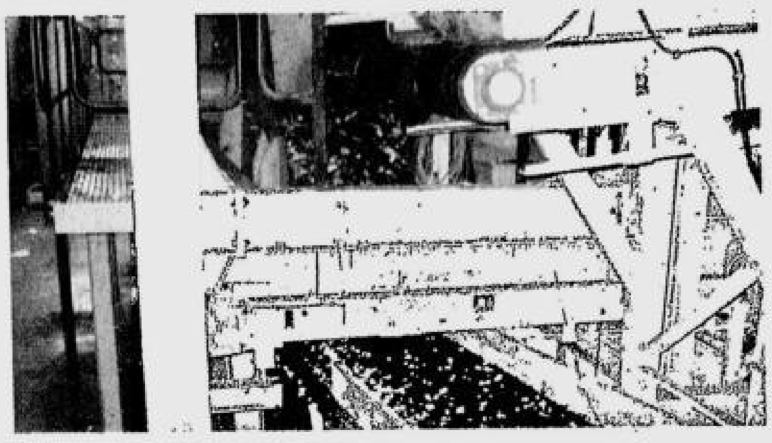


PLASTIC, tin and other recyclable materials are sorted and packed at a recycling center.

Making money out of 'urban mining'



GERMANY leads the way in waste management.

Text and Photos by Doris C. Dumlao

BERLIN—HEAPS OF STINKY GARBAGE were hauled to a big warehouse in the eastern suburb of Mahlsdorf the same way raw materials were brought to a factory.

What came out half an hour later were compact cubes of accurately sorted materials—plastic, tin, aluminum and tetra packs—which can be sold for recycling at a good price.

"Urban mining," Europe's fancy name for this process of making money out of garbage using sophisticated machinery, is a booming business in this wealthy nation with very little natural resources.

About 130 companies scoop up what households and companies throw out as rubbish across Germany to extract valuable materials.

These waste management experts usually integrate collection, segregation, recycling and trading of recycled goods in a seamless business cycle, but some functions like garbage collection are sometimes outsourced to smaller players.

Total industry turnover from this garbage business is estimated at about 50 billion euros a year.

Medium-sized ALBA Service MIT System, which has invested 15 million euros to build Germany's newest and most modern garbage-sorting plant here in October 2005, is part of this vibrant industry.

This Mahlsdorf facility handles garbage collated from Berlin's "yellow" trash bins—or those meant for light empty packaging made from plastics, tin, aluminum and composite materials.

MAKING / B3-3

Hyundai Earns Largest Opinion Improvement

AutoPacific, an automotive consulting firm, reported Hyundai had the largest opinion improvement among nine manufacturers in its initial wave of Image and Consideration Tracking Research.

AutoPacific analysts stated, "The surprise (or not so surprising) winner of the most improved manufacturer was Hyundai Motor Corporation. Comments surrounding the performance of Hyundai gave Hyundai credit for substantially improved styling, newly-found high durability/quality/reliability, a strong value message and a great warranty program. Positive comments outweighed negative comments by about four to one."

Nine manufacturers were evaluated including, General Motors, Toyota, Ford Motor, Chrysler Group, Nissan, Honda, Hyundai, VW, and BMW. 1,254 panelists responded to an Internet survey concerning their opinion of automakers in the USA. The key question in the survey was whether the respondent's opinion of a manufacturer had changed since this time last year. Over 5,000 verbatim comments were collected in relation to opinion and attitude toward various aspects of a manufacturer's image.

"In 2006, JD Power and Associates ranked Hyundai as the highest non-premium nameplate in its Initial Quality Study and BusinessWeek named us a top '100 Global Brand' for 2006," said John Krafcik, vice president of Strategic Planning and Product Development, Hyundai Motor America. "AutoPacific's report that Hyundai now has the largest opinion improvement over nine competing manufacturers is another example of how Hyundai is continuing to improve brand image through its commitment to quality and value."

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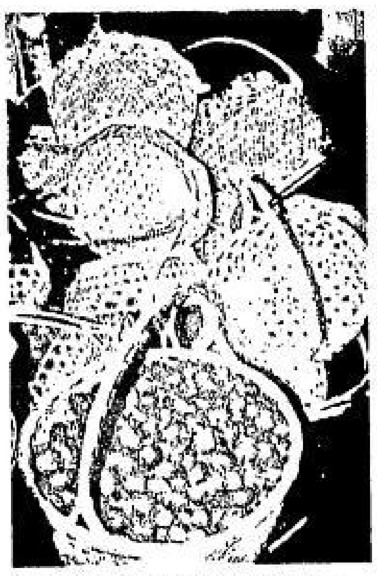
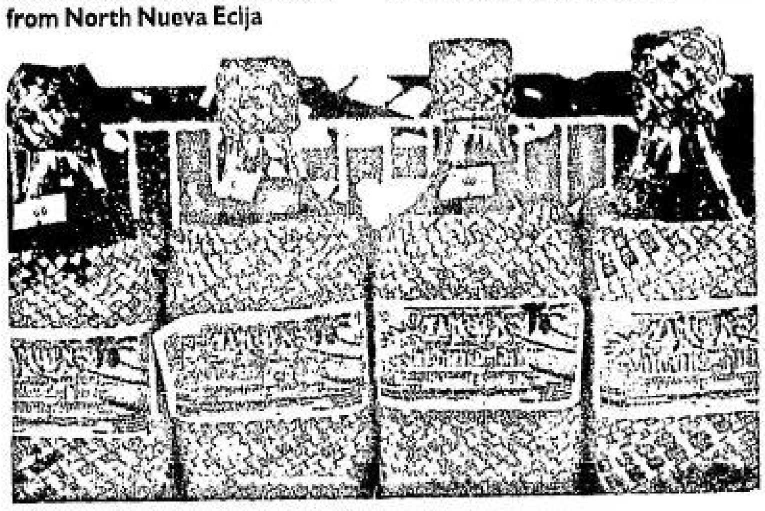
When farmers become traders

PAPAYA from Aurora



ONION and handmade basket from North Nueva Ecija



VINEGAR from Aurora

Text and photos by Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE 100-square-meter car park of the Department of Agrarian Reform here teemed with agricultural produce and by-products from seven Central Luzon provinces last week.

Aurora put on sale pineapple, papaya, banana, pako (ferns for salad), coco jam, sabutan hats and mats, salabat (ginger powder) and grounded coffee beans.

Bataan sold cashew nuts, dried and smoked fish, assorted fruits, tambo (soft brooms), oysters, mussels, crabs and pepper.

Bulacan showcased its chicharon, pastillas, biscuits, pillowcases, bags, vinegar and fish sauce.

North Nueva Ecija sold dairy products, canton noodles, ube halaya, cashew, chili paste, sweet corn, garlic, squash, cogon products, charcoal, salted eggs and tomatoes while South Nueva Ecija retailed metal crafts, rattan baskets, slippers, native cakes, onion and papaya soap.

SUGARCANE vinegar, peanut butter and pickled ampalaya from Tarlac

Pampanga made brisk sale of peanuts, assorted vegetables, Japanese corn, burong isda (fermented fish) and salted eggs while Tarlac featured its best-selling Victoria's peanut butter alongside native brooms, crocheted blouses, pickled papaya, earthenware, sweet potato, cornick and tupig.

Zambales packed its stall with danggit, fresh mangoes, bugoong (fish paste) and other fish sauces, ampalaya, eggplant, sesame candies, polvoron, avocado and iodized salt.

What makes these products "extraordinarily different" is that these are grown and made by agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) either as individuals or cooperatives, according to Ma. Iryn Magcalas, regional coordinator of the DAR's marketing assistance program.

As they try to make productive the lands they got through the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), the ARBs also find ways to market their produce or develop other products from out of the bounties of the land, Magcalas said.

Over 100 kinds of by-products are made by ARBs, most of them women, she said. None of these are exported yet.

The "setback" is in their not being able to get safety certification yet from the Bureau of Food and Drugs Administration, she said.

Still, the "farmer-cum-entrepreneur" model has been the track that they have been taking under the CARP, she said.

There are 317,461 ARBs in Central Luzon who received 410,112 hectares distributed through the CARP since 1988.

However, only 121,474 of them lived in the region's 175 agrarian reform communities (ARCs) where government agencies had concentrated infrastructures and economic development assistance over the last five years through the Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi) program.

COFFEE, smoked and salted fish from Bataan

That means that not all ARBs have been reached and provided access to loans to sustain new enterprises.

Most ARCs are still within the stage where their needs for farm-to-market roads, bridges, irrigation facilities and solar dryers are being met, DAR reports showed.

Café Aurora
Café Aurora

COFFEE from Aurora

FISH SAUCE and iodized salt from Zambales

For instance, infrastructure projects continued to get the bulk of expenses, amounting to P399 million last year.

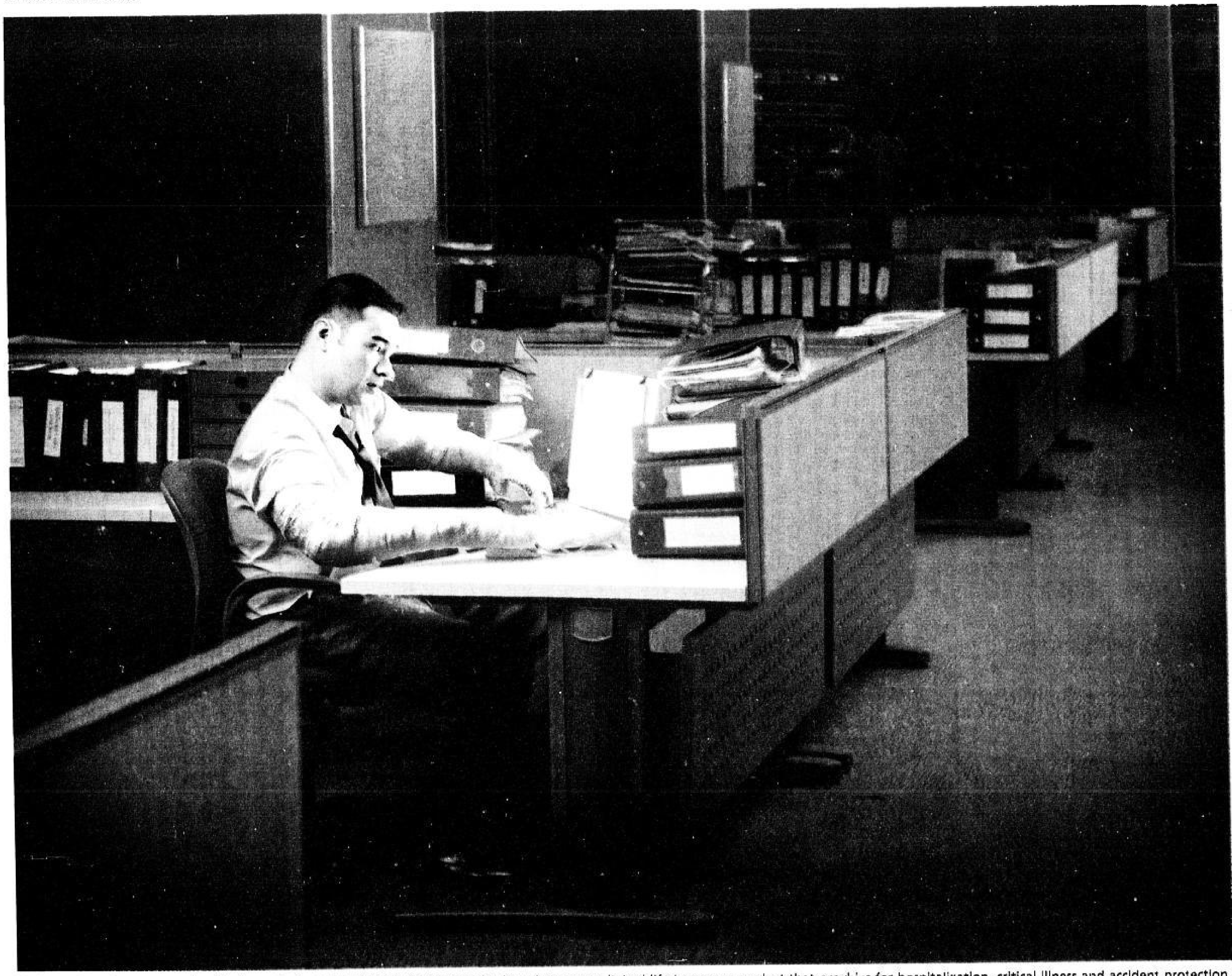
Microfinancing, on the other hand, received P15.18 million for 20 projects for the same period.

The Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry are helping the DAR in the farmers' ventures.

Those agencies, however, lacked funds like the DAR.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman said there is so much to do. "This is the next venture of CARP—to make the farmers' products competitive and the farmers becoming proud entrepreneurs in the coming

WHEN FARMERS/ B4-2



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Goats, cattle, pigs may go the way of the dodo

Large-scale production threatens diversity of farm animal breeds, FAO says

By Amy R. Remo

MASSIVE production of certain breeds of livestock may lead to the extinction of others.

THE GIANT PANDA, SEA TURtle and koala are not the only animals facing extinction.

Some breeds of goats, cattle and pigs are, too.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, there is a real possibility that the rapid spread of large-scale industrial livestock production could lead to the extinction of certain animal breeds.

A report presented recently to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture said that this kind of production that focuses on a few breeds, posed the biggest threat to the diversity of farm animal breeds.

Industrial livestock production refers to intensive breeding of certain animals such as goats, cattle and pigs to supply uniform products such as meat, milk and eggs, according to the "The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture."

"One livestock breed a month has become extinct over the past seven years and time is running out for one-fifth of the world's breeds of cattle, goats, pigs, horses and poultry," said FAO assistant director general Alexander Müller in his address to the commission.

According to Müller, there is a need to increase the resilience of food supply, given the surging global demand for meat, milk and eggs.

"In the next 40 years, the world's population will rise from today's 6.2 billion to 9 billion, with all the growth occurring in the developing countries," Müller added.

Wake-up call

He said that the report, the first global overview of livestock biodiversity and of the capacity within countries to manage their animal genetic resources, was a "wake-up call" to the world.

"Effective management of animal genetic diversity is essential to global food security, sustainable development and the livelihoods of millions of people," said Irene Hoffmann, chief of FAO's Animal Production Service.

In the Philippines, FAO has conducted a study called "Livestock Industrialization, Trade and Social-Health-Environment Impacts in Developing Countries," which concentrated on the forces responsible for the scaling up of livestock production.

The objective was to identify ways for developing countries to improve their livestock sectors, while avoiding the too rapid increase in production.

This is important because livestock is one of the few agricultural products that small farmers can produce, the FAO said.

If they cannot compete in this area, their prospects of making good in farming are bleak, FAO added.

Through its Livestock, Environment and Development program (LEAD), FAO assessed the conditions of the country's livestock sector and the social, health and environmental concerns facing poor people and farm animals in developing countries.

LEAD is a multi-institutional program formed to promote ecologically sustainable livestock production systems.

The study showed that in the Philippines, livestock are found more in both small and large farms, but that the output of the small farms is increasing.

However, evidence reviewed suggests that large-scale enterprises are growing even more rapidly, taking market share away from the small farmers.

FAO said the question then was whether large-scale livestock production would out-compete smallholder producers everywhere and eventually provoke their exit from the sector.

Breed diversity loss

According to FAO, the figures cited may only be a partial picture of the genetic erosion taking place as breed inventories are inadequate in many parts of the world.

The problem is further compounded by the ease with which genetic material can now be moved around the world, said the report which drew information from 169 countries.

It added that the developing world was seen as the hotspot of breed diversity loss in the 21st century.

FAO noted that the crowding out of local breeds was seen to accelerate unless special provisions are made for their sustainable use and conservation.

Urgent recommendations

The FAO report has recommended that developing countries adopt effective management of animal genetic diversity, which requires having well-trained personnel and adequate technical facilities.

According to the report, 48 percent of the world's countries have no national conservation programs while 63 percent said they have no in vitro programs for the conservation of embryos, semen or other genetic material.

Similarly, in many countries, structured breeding programs are absent or ineffective.

"Support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to characterize, conserve and utilize their livestock breeds will be necessary," says Clive Stannard of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

"Frameworks for wide access to animal genetic resources, and for equitable sharing of the benefits derived from them, need to be put in place, both at national and international levels," he added.

MOVEMENTS

Kodak names country GM

DIGITAL COMPANY KODAK PHILIPPINES HAS appointed entertainment imaging veteran Eduardo Reyes as the new Kodak country general manager.

Reyes will oversee Kodak's new business portfolio in the Philippines and Asean countries, which is geared toward television commercials, advertising agencies and feature production houses.

"I am really excited to lead Kodak Philippines. We are looking at further growing the business in the areas of graphic communications, consumer digital capture, and consumer inkjet printing, among others. We have the people, the assets, the strategy and the structure to sustain Kodak's position as a digital leader," explained Reyes.

Prior to joining Kodak, Reyes had seven-year sales management experience, having served Yupangco Music Corp. and International Flavors and Fragrances (Phils.) Inc. as a regional sales manager and account manager, respectively.

Reyes is a graduate of De La Salle University with a degree in Management of Financial Institutions.

Eastman Kodak Co. has been operating in the Philippines for over 40 years.

Kodak successfully clinched the top third position in the digital camera category, backed by the sales of over 400 Kodak Express retail outlets nationwide. Kodak has likewise remained a market leader in entertainment imaging.

Leo Burnett has new GM

LEO BURNETT, one of the world's largest advertising and marketing agency networks and a wholly owned subsidiary of Publicis Groupe, has promoted Raymond Arrastia from deputy managing director to managing director of Leo Burnett Manila.

"I look forward to this challenge to further strengthen Leo Burnett's position in the market," said Arrastia upon his promotion. "By providing big ideas that engage consumers and build our clients' brands, I am confident that we are well poised to face today's changing marketing communications landscape."

His previous role as the agency's deputy managing director over the last 16 months saw him work closely with the other members of the Leo Burnett Philippines Group Excom made up of Manila CEO Michael Constantine, Richard Irvine, Boyet Alvero and Ichay Bulaong in engineering the future of the Leo Burnett, Arc Worldwide and Blackpencil operations in this fast-evolving market.

"During that time, Arrastia had proven to be a shrewd leader with strong business acumen and a growing reputation for building client business and relationships," Constantine said. "He is a fine example of the professionalism, dedication and hardworking ethos which we respect within the Leo Burnett world. He is cool under pressure; frank and fair in his dealings with others; open and approachable."

Metrobank has new group head

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank) has appointed Fernand Antonio A. Tansingco, CFA, as the new head of the bank's treasury group.

Tansingco has over 19 years of financial markets expertise especially in the fields of foreign exchange, fixed income, treasury marketing and derivatives.

Tansingco earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree from the University of the Philippines-Diliman where he was a National Science Technology Authority scholar.

He also attended studies in Templeton College, Oxford University, UK and in INSEAD, France, and completed the Chartered Financial Analyst Program in Virginia, USA.

Tansingco is a member of the Bankers Association of the Philippines-Open Market Committee and of various operations committee for ACI Philippines. He also served as two-time director of the Money Market Association (MART).

Migrant makes good in Davao transport sector

By Joselle dR. Badilla
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—HE IS THE UNDISPUTED transport king in the city.

Ronald Bangayan, 58, became the first businessman in the city, who gambled into the taxi business in 1993.

Bangayan is a descendant of a Chinese-Filipino family that migrated to Davao City from Zamboanga City in the 1960s.

His family ventured into the copra business.

"We are all from Zamboanga City. Actually my dad grew up in a small island called Sacol. After the war they transferred to Zamboanga. We were all born in Zambonga," he said.

Bangayan said his parents knew that the copra business would eventually die and advised their children to look for other opportunities.

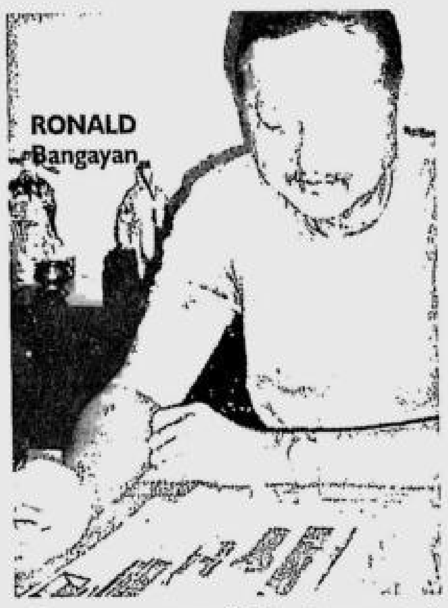
He said his frequent travels to other cities in the country made him entertain the idea of Davao as a potential market for taxi business in the early '70s.

"I've been going to Cebu with my *barkada*. There I saw how the taxi business boomed in Cebu due to the influx of tourists," he said.

"Whenever I ride a plane, I see many small subdivisions in Davao but it's in the outskirts. *Malayong* subdivision, like Skyline (in Catalunan Grande village). I found out that most of those who reside in the subdivisions are middle-class income residents," he told the INQUIRER.

He said 80 percent of people living in subdivisions outside the city proper do not own cars.

"They have to ride public transport. The only thing I can get them to ride my taxi is to introduce a phone-a-cab business and we became the pioneer in that business here in Davao," Bangayan said.



RONALD Bangayan

Bangayan started his phone-a-taxi business by purchasing 200 units of Kia vehicle in 1993.

His company, Davao Holiday Transport Services Inc., now fields about 400 units of non-airconditioned vehicles and a number of air-conditioned units.

From taxis to buses

Bangayan said his eagerness to venture more into the transportation business made him purchase 60 units of buses. His buses started to serve the Davao City-Koronadal City route, which was previously serviced alone by the Yellow Bus Co.

Bangayan did not stop with his growing land transportation venture.

Later he went into the inter-island ferry business.

"I came from Zamboanga. I love the sea. *Taong dagat ako*. I usually stay at the pier with our Muslim brothers. We swim and we dive together," he said.

Bangayan said the idea of an inter-island ferry business came to him when he frequented a piece of land his father bought in Samal Island.

He said Samal, which is only about 20 minutes by boat from this city, is even bigger in area compared to Mactan Island in Cebu.

"If you compare Samal to Mactan, Samal is even much nicer. Then I said to myself, Samal can became another Cebu," he said.

Helping Samal

So he planned on putting up a ferry service that would shuttle tourists from Davao to Samal.

"I planned everything, putting up a ferry. Four to five years, *naisip ko malulugi ako*. But it's like chicken and egg. I have to gamble. I put up the ferry business because I saw the potential of Samal Island," he said.

Recently, his bus units started to service the Davao City-Samal route.

The route is of course connected by his ferry service.

"It would be easy for people to ride the buses, pay P25 and *sakay na rin sila sa* ferry. They don't have to pay for the ferry anymore," he said.

Bangayan said by subsidizing the ferry fare, he believes he was helping the city of Samal.

"People residing in Samal come to Davao for work. If they reside in Davao, they pay for boarding houses or pay house rentals, pay for their food. With the buses and the ferries it would be easy for them to go home everyday," he said.

Bangayan said the availability of transport between Samal and Davao also helped the former grow its population.

"I somewhat say I helped Samal a lot. From about 15,000 to 20,000 population, *ngayon* 100,000 na. People are starting to go there," he said.

So what more can he ask after for his successful transport business?

The seemingly unstoppable Bangayan went into the entertainment business by putting up The Venue in 2000.

"I used to play in a band when I was in high school. I love music. *Nakita ko sa* Davao *walang* night life. If you bring artists from Manila or Cebu we don't have a venue for entertainment," he said.

"That is why I put up The Venue, venue stands for the venue itself," he said.

The entertainment business indeed flourished.

"When I put up the taxi business, they ask who would probably ride it. But look at what happened, other businessmen put up their own taxi business. So when I put up The Venue, others put up theirs, too," he said.

Competition welcome

Bangayan said he was never afraid of the competition.

Aside from the transportation and entertainment businesses, Bangayan also ventured into the Spa and culinary business.

"My wife Gene is a dentist but she helped me with other businesses. She handles the management of the Holiday Spa and Gym and the newly opened culinary school, the Center for Asian Culinary Studies here in Davao," Bangayan said.

Today, Bangayan is developing a Marina resort in Samal.

The 100-room resort will have all the amenities similar to any first-class hotels.

"This is going to be the first Marina, hotel and resort and overlooking subdivision in Samal," he said.

Bangayan, who took up Industrial Engineering at Adamson University in Manila, stopped schooling after martial law.

"I was one of the activists *dun*. When martiaw law was announced, I have to come back to Davao that is why I wasn't able to finish college. *Konti na lang kulang, sayang pero OK naman*," he said.

Bangayan said in any business there are ups and downs but if one wants to succeed, perseverance is one of the key ingredients.

"I loan from banks, I borrow money from relatives. That's what happened when I ventured into the ferry business. *Nalugi talaga ako dun* but I did not surrender because I know it will pay off. Samal is only 20 minutes away from the city. It's the only place that is very near to the city, white sand and it is very peaceful," he said.

He said in putting up a business, observation is also important.

But the most important thing, he said, is: "Be original."

"Look for businesses *na wala pa dito*. You don't need huge funds to start up a business. You just have to be patient, you have to be very observant because that is where you learn about different things in life, and when you put up a business, you have to think of others you will be able to help," he told the INQUIRER.

TAXI
122
37·75 480
LWP 520

QUEUE of Holiday Taxi beside a mall. Holiday Taxi is Bangayan's first business in Davao City.

When farmers become traders

From page B4-1

years," he said.

That, however, depends on Congress if it gives CARP an extension after the program's termination in 2008.

A 2005 study of the program, however, noted that "from a financial perspective, the glaring lesson learned is that the [CARP] has not been a priority of all branches of government."

While the first 10 years of the CARP required P210 billion, it only got P111 billion between 1987 and 2004.

"While the construction of [infrastructures], mainly bridges and roads, had improved access to central business districts, other interventions would have made more impact in terms of productivity and income," said the study.

Producing employers, not just employees

By Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FUTURE entrepreneurs at Benguet State University

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—What if a tenth of the thousands of graduates each year were to set up their own companies or industries and recruit fresh-from-college colleagues, instead of lining up at the doors of companies to apply for jobs?

This is the goal of a business management training program, which a telecommunications firm and a private foundation have started at the Benguet State University (BSU) here.

"While seeking employment after graduation is good, being an entrepreneur is much better because an entrepreneur is also an employer," Globe Telecom public relations head Jones Campos said in a briefing here, during which he and other colleagues discussed the rationale and goals of Wiwag.

Wiwag or Wirtschafts Wochen-Ag, which is "Business Week" in German, is a five-day business management training program based on a computer-aided simulation game.

Originally from Switzerland, Wiwag has become part of the curricula of a number of Swiss and German high schools.

Through the program, 25 selected students from the different colleges of BSU on June 18-22 played roles of actually managing a company, giving them a feel of how the finance, production, marketing and human resources departments of a company function and inter-relate.

BSU head Dr. Rogelio Colting

EYE'S Elaine Mapa

Running a company

State colleges and universities such as BSU are chosen for the Wiwag course to help enhance their agri-business courses, according to the sponsors.

"During my time, business management student interns in a company would normally be assigned to simply prepare coffee for top executives and personnel," says Elaine Mapa, executive director of the Education for Youth Enterprise Foundation or EYE, and one of the volunteer trainers of the Wiwag course. "But through Wiwag, students would actually run their own companies through computer-assisted simulation games."

EYE is Globe's co-sponsor of the Wiwag course, which the telecommunications company is undertaking under Globe Bridge-Com—Globe's corporate social responsibility program.

Divided into four teams, with each team creating its own "firm," the four "companies" during the Wiwag course would create one product and, through simulation games, devise ways to promote the product.

"So the students are trained on how to make their own press releases, market and package their products, analyze scenarios, make forecasts, and do other simulation games that approximate the real activities of corporations," says Mapa.

Hands-on training

Since they also have to report daily on whether their "companies" are gaining profit or losing money, the students are actually learning hands-on the ABCs of cash-flow, bookkeeping and accounting, says Richard Chan, who heads Globe's North Luzon consumer business group.

The first in the country, the Wiwag program seeks to augment classroom instructions at the Benguet State University, says Campos, himself a volunteer lecturer-trainer on public relations.

GLOBE'S Jones Campos

The 25 students who took the Wiwag course are also expected to have a comparative edge over other students.

One reason is that they can opt to start their own business or industry after graduation and immediately earn income and possibly employ other people instead of being idle for months or even years while looking for jobs, as is the case for legions of graduates, says Campos.

"Through the Wiwag program, we hope to expand the choices of students after they graduate," he says.

BSU president, Dr. Rogelio Colting, welcomed the Wiwag course. "The idea of producing graduates, who become entrepreneurs instead of simple employees, is in tune with our 'ladderized' program," he says.

BSU's business-related courses include Bachelor of Science in Agribusines, BS Entrepreneurship, and BS Agricultural Technology.

Under the ladderized program, students can opt to take two-year diploma courses, through which they are trained to immediately start businesses immediately afterwards, says Colting.

But while engaging in business, graduates of two-year diploma courses can pursue their studies to finally earn their full degrees.

"It's really high time that students are taught to think business," says Colting. "With the proper skills and training, graduates can start any business that can employ other people and serve their communities. They themselves can start a school, for example."

High-caliber trainers

There are 55 volunteer-trainers and instructors, who take turns facilitating the Wiwag course, and they are not just experts in their own fields but accomplished entrepreneurs themselves, says Mapa.

She says many volunteers are retired entrepreneurs, some of whom were listed in Fortune magazine as among Asia's wealthiest.

The 25 BSU students were thus fortunate to be tutored by volunteers who could discuss business management theories with authority because they could validate and enhance these with their own experiences, says Mapa.

In return, the students are expected not only to apply what they learned from the Wiwag course but to also spread the lessons they have acquired and possibly become trainers themselves, says Jeffrey Tarayao, Globe community relations head.

Elderly couple earns bucks the integrated way

Text and photos
By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

PASSI CITY, ILOILO—A ONE-and-a-half hectare farm may not be big but, if farmed the integrated way, it can earn the owner big bucks and the respect of farmers and the government as well.

This was what Gerardo "Arding" Padernal, 73, found out after he decided to cast away his old ways of farming and apply what he had learned from countless seminars and from an early morning radio program on farming.

Padernal's farm in Barangay Talongonan, about 5 kilometers away from Passi City, is planted to vegetables, fruit trees, cassava, bananas, and rice.

A small fishpond at one end teems with tilapia and catfish; at the other end stands a piggery and a rest area for two carabaos.

His 81-year-old wife, Flaviana, is still spry and helps in farm chores. She also joins her husband in attending agricultural seminars.

The Padernal couple calls this farming style "siksik sa laman," but the provincial government of Iloilo officially calls this the Integrated Rice-Based Farm Production and has recognized Padernal as "Outstanding Achiever in Agriculture for 2004-2005."

A farmer for 22 years, Padernal said he did not go about seeking recognition for his farming as it was Leopoldo Aguilario, a Passi agriculturist, who discovered his integrated farming and nominated him to the contest.

A cut above the rest

An early riser with no vices, the hardworking Padernal is a cut above other Iloilo farmers because he not only uses integrated farming but also uses both organic and synthetic fertilizers mixed with herbal pesticides to maximize his production.

Radio program

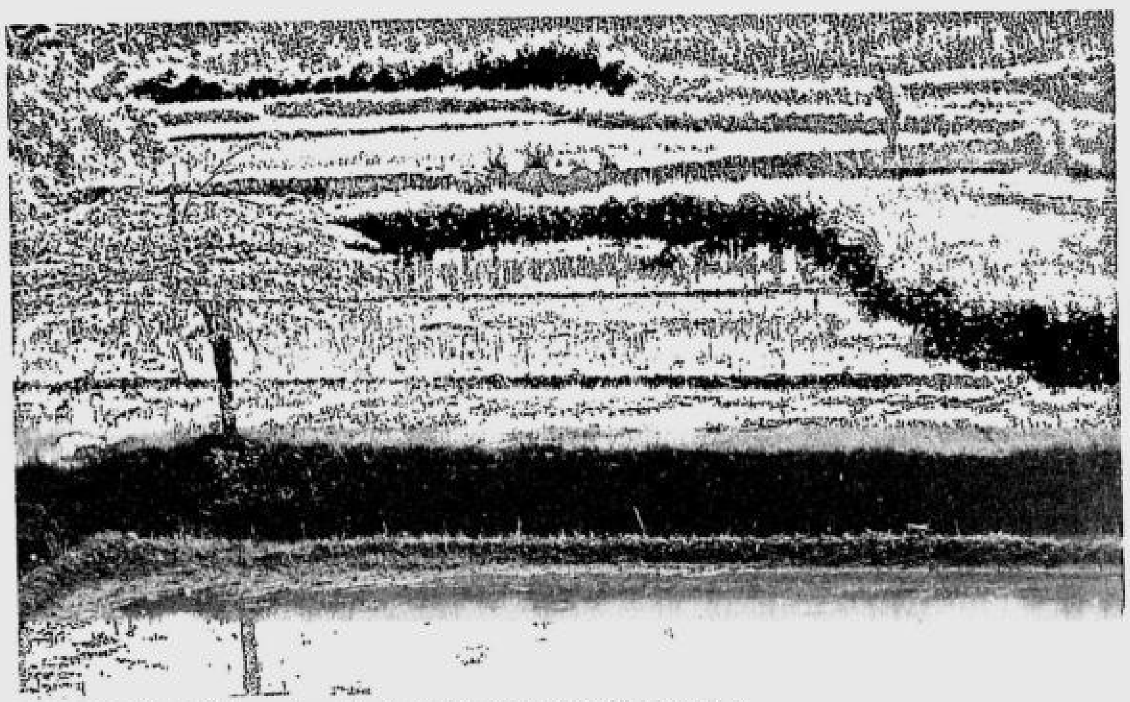
Padernal said much of his ideas came from Mario Palana, an agriculturist based in Negros Occidental, who hosts a 4 a.m. radio program. He also conducts seminars on agriculture, some of which Padernal had attended.

"Commercial pesticides, aside from being expensive, are bad for the health," said Padernal.

Padernal's first cropping from his half-hectare rice paddy was 83 sacks and the second cropping was 90 sacks, selling per sack at P350 at the lowest price.

As for the 10 pigs he raises, Padernal won more points in the competition for feeding them *kangkong* that he grows himself and *upa* (rice husks).

The Iloilo provincial government, in citing him as an "agriculture achiever," said Padernal's annual income has exceeded P230,000.



THE PADERNALS' farm benefits from integrated farming practices.

"It takes a long time for farmers to adapt to new knowledge and technologies because they want to see the results first. They don't want to gamble on time," said Dr. Ildefonso T. Toledo, administrative officer of the provincial government.

Padernal sums up the whole farming experience and the logic of it all, thus: "Of what use is all that knowledge if you are lazy?"

RP's 'Professor Butterfly'

From page B4-4

20 years, the butterfly species Troides magellanus, Hebomoea glaucippe and Polyura schreiberi have not been seen in the wilderness of Marinduque.

As a result of Labay's findings, a former MSC president, Dr. Rodrigo Monterey Sr., suggested that any research about butterflies must include the breeding aspect of the insect and the conservation of its host plants.

To provide the basis for sustaining diversity of the butterfly species, Labay started other researches which would identify the larval-host plants of the butterflies of the various species studied.

There is, however, a need to continue identifying the species of the butterflies and their host plants in order to sustain the program of the butterfly industry in the province.

Andam reiterated that in the butterfly industry, sustainability is a function of diversity of butterfly species and their host plants.

To date, Labay is happy to note that there are now more than 200 commercial growers or farmers of butterflies in the province.

LABAY checks a leaf of a host plant for caterpillars.

Marinduque's butterfly industry is estimated at P100 million annually with Labay's scientific researches and studies on the business opportunities arising from engaging in butterfly farming contributing immensely to its growth.

In 1995, his proposal on Marinduque Butterfly Research and Livelihood-related Training Program, a continuing program of MSC for farmers, out-of-school-youths, rural mothers and displaced workers, received a P2-million grant from the countryside development fund of the late Sen. Raul Roco.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) and World Bank gave P500,000 to fund his Community-based Training and Enterprise Development project entitled *"Pera sa Paru-Paro"* (Money from Butterflies).

The project is a continuing program in line with the butterfly research and livelihood program of Tesda which deals on butterfly products' processing and packaging.

Labay said his researches helped increase the income of the farmers by combining butterfly farming as a hobby and as an income-generating activity.

His programs were also able to involve women and children in a household income-generating activity which is not labor-intensive.

Further, his researches led to the protection of the species in the wild, both the butterflies and their host-plants, to sustain this type of livelihood.

"More farmers are now encouraged to plant their host plants from patches of gardens in their backyards to inter-cropping crops between coconut and fruit trees thus maximizing land use for agriculture," added Labay.

Future plans

In the future, Labay plans to write books on the butterflies of Marinduque by volume in terms of family such as Papilionidae, Lycanidae, Nymphalidae, Hisperiidae and Pieridae.

He is also contemplating including in his book the butterflies' various species and their biodiversity such as its respective larval host-plants, nectar host-plants, pests and diseases and the butterflies' status to further empower butterfly farmers and enthusiasts not only in the province but also nationwide.

Labay is also looking forward to help in the establishment of the Marinduque butterfly park or butterfly jungle, to contribute in the eco-tourism thrust of the province and the creation of a butterfly research center which could sustain the growth of the butterfly industry in the province.

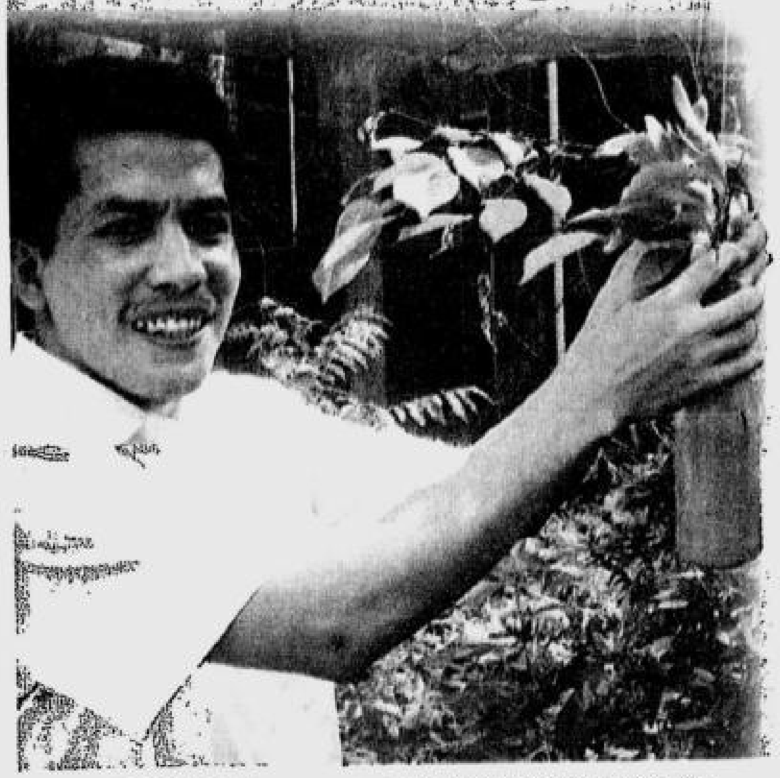
Andam said Labay's efforts in research and in extending the results to local folks deserve recognition.

"Prof. Labay's achievement in research is one that deserves serious emulation by the faculty members of higher educational institutions in the country, especially the state universities and colleges, to create change for farmer empowerment and development," Andam added.

SOME of his framed butterflies

BUSINESS *Monday*

RP's *'Professor Butterfly'*



PROF. PANCHITO Labay prepares sugar syrup for the butterflies.

Text and Photos
by Gerald Gene R. Querubin
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—IF THE extent of his research works about butterflies and their impact on the community will be the basis, Prof. Panchito Labay, a Ford Fellow and a professor at the Marinduque State College, will easily be distinguished as the country's "Professor Butterfly."

According to Dr Carlos Andam, MSC's vice president for research and extension, he does not know of anyone in the Philippine academic or research community who has conducted numerous and diverse studies about butterfly the way Prof. Labay has done them.

Born and raised in the hinterlands of the province, Labay developed a deep interest in nature, most especially about butterflies, after having lived with the farmers and *kaingeros* in the forested areas of the province.

Labay, 49, said he stayed and slept in the farmers' "*kamaligs*" or barns and learned from them.

"My frequent interaction with them triggered my interest in doing studies about butterflies," said Labay.

It was his connections with the Layrons of Boac and the Franciscos of Buenavista, however, which further aroused his enthusiasm to engage in butterfly research.

The Layrons and the Franciscos are considered the forerunners of butterfly livelihood in Marinduque.

"I joined them in collecting butterfly species and host piants in the wild. I learned from them, especially in identifying the butterflies' habitat and host plants. They encouraged me to do more research on butterflies and supported me in my undertakings," said Labay.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN
(HOST PLANT)

LABAY have been interested in butterflies since he was a teenager.

It was in 1993 when Labay started a research project on butterflies even without available funds.

What he did was to organize the Batingaw ng Kalikasan, MSC's first environmental organization, which was composed mainly of students who helped him gather data needed for the project.

In his initial study, Labay was able to identify 158 species of butterflies that could be found in the province.

The said species belong to 71 genera and 10 families in the taxonomic classification.

Labay noted in his research that there were already three butterfly species deemed endangered in the province.

He found out that for the past

RP'S/ B4-3

Pru Life UK, the local subsidiary of British financial services giant Prudential plc, introduces yet another new breakthrough in the Philippine insurance industry.

The Company, commended for introducing Pru Link in the Philippines five years ago, is setting a new standard in the local insurance landscape with its PruLink Protection Plus or PPPlus.

The new product is an investment-linked life insurance that provides for hospitalization, critical illness and accident protection.

PPPlus, launched on June 1 at 1 Esplanade at SM Complex in Pasay City, affords extended medical care, pays daily hospital income for up to 365 days and covers 36 critical illnesses.

Company executives lauded PPPlus for encompassing more bases and providing total protection to discerning customers.

Pru Life UK President and Chief Executive Nishit Majmudar and Vice President for Marketing Services Belle Tiongco said PPPlus is the Company's bold response to the increasing demand of people for hospitalization and critical illness benefits in their life insurance policies.

"I have rarely ever known a market where the people are not under-insured. The Philippines is no exception," Mr. Majmudar said, adding that PPPlus "is very flexible".

Mr. Majmudar also noted that the new investment-linked life insurance product "provides comprehensive insurance protection to customers in a manner that meets their changing needs throughout their lifetime. I am confident that this product will reconfirm our position as a market leader in product innovation".

Ms. Tiongco agreed, noting that the introduction of PPPlus reinforces the Company's leadership in the Philippine life insurance industry.

"Since its entry 10 years ago, Pru Life UK has always been a product innovator in the local life insurance scene. We changed the life playing field with our introduction of investment-linked life policies, which served to expand the industry as a whole. The consumers can count on Pru Life UK to continue this tradition of truly responsive and superior products. After all, this Company has pledged to always listen to and always understand its customers' needs," Ms. Tiongco said.

ADVT

All in the Mix

Goldilocks Enabled through PLDT Shops.Work Technology

Even before two sisters and their sister-in-law whipped up their first cakes in 1966, the brand they started —Goldilocks—was well on its way to becoming an emotional fixture in the Filipino psyche. Beyond their innate love for food and flavor that won over millions of loyal customers, the spirit of innovation in products and services proved to be the true engine for business growth. Today, they continue to apply that same innovative zeal as they confidently invest in PLDT Business Solutions.

Now entering their 5th decade in business, the sisters look back at extra special milestones. From just 10 employees and two display stands, Goldilocks has grown to 226 stores—both here and abroad—with approximately 4,000 local employees. Cumulative system-wide sales over the years total over 5 billion pesos as of last count.

According to Goldilocks Marketing Director Pinky Yee, there are four main ingredients for the overwhelming success of Goldilocks: Brand Equity, Passion for Innovation and Quality, Accessibility of Store Locations, and Hands-on Management. "This is what we affectionately call the 'Goldilocks Winning Recipe'," she further enthused. A clearly defined brand image of thoughtfulness, an enviably successful distribution strategy of empowered franchisees, and a directly involved management of Goldilocks as simultaneous manufacturer and retailer all certainly helped towards brand preeminence.

But perhaps it is Passion for Innovation and Quality that allows Goldilocks to remain current, and thus maintain its leadership position in its industry. Every year the brand uses creativity and effectiveness to bring responsive products and services to its evolving market. Their Go Lite product line introduced low-calorie sugar-free desserts for health conscious consumers. In their food shops, their pioneering Pinoydeli line features frozen, ready-to-cook favorites such as rellenong bangus, pork barbeque, siopao and lumpiang shanghai. Latest offerings from Pinoydeli are ready-to-eat pouches of dinuguan, lechon paksiw, bopis and laing that can be easily heated in a pot of hot water and served. The company's HEALTHtinapay bread line has received tremendous acclaim, not just from consumers, but the Department of Health (DOH) as well. The bromate-free, zero Trans Fatty Acid breads contain no cholesterol and are Vitamin A fortified, prompting it to be the first Filipino bread to be awarded the "Sangkap Pinoy" seal by the DOH.

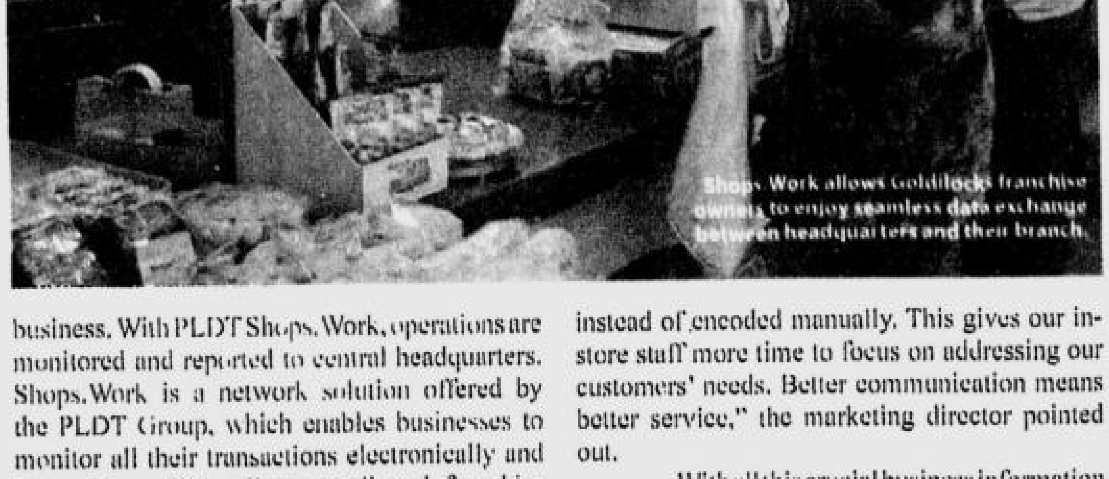
For Goldilocks Marketing Director, Pinky Yee, "PLDT's Shops.Work ensures that consumer feedback reaches the head office in a timely manner—no matter how far the branch may be."

And in the new age of business enabled through technology, Goldilocks has put PLDT into their winning mix.

"We are very excited to have PLDT Business Solutions as our trusted ICT solutions partner, because it involves the synergy between two market leaders," says Ms. Yee, "Both companies are deeply intertwined with the lives of Filipinos and have the same commitment to service excellence and product superiority."

The New Goldilocks IT Advantage

The same spirit of innovation has powered the smooth way Goldilocks runs its business. With PLDT Shops.Work, operations are monitored and reported to central headquarters. Shops.Work is a network solution offered by the PLDT Group, which enables businesses to monitor all their transactions electronically and in real-time. This allows retail and franchise store owners to connect to the databases of any of their branches for accurate sales and inventory reports. With IP-enabled surveillance and security devices, management gets a bird's-eye view of the performance of shop floors and the assembly line in a stream of constantly updated data.



Shops.Work allows Goldilocks franchise owners to enjoy seamless data exchange between headquarters and their branch.

"Our most important criterion for employing new technology is how it will benefit our customers," Ms. Yee says. "PLDT's Shops. Work ensures that consumer feedback reaches the head office in a timely manner—no matter how far the branch may be. Data can now be uploaded instead of encoded manually. This gives our in-store staff more time to focus on addressing our customers' needs. Better communication means better service," the marketing director pointed out.

With all this crucial business information delivered literally right to their fingertips, Goldilocks is making the best use of the leading PLDT Business Solutions technology. It's the IT advantage that it knows will be a key factor to continue being an integral part (and top) of the Filipino consumer's mind.

"At Goldilocks, we are constantly seeking ways to connect with our customers," Ms. Yee underscored. "More than a 'branch-to-head office' linkage, we look at it more as a 'customer-to-head office linkage'. This is what appeals to us and makes the technology exciting."

ESTYLE

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Editor ormoso Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

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SCENE from "Bertdey ni Guido," a children's play based on the award-winning book by Rene Villanueva

The Third Virgin Labfest, unreeling June 28-July 8 at the CCP, seeks to showcase fresh, daring, unconventional plays

Festival of fearless virgins

By Gibbs Cadiz

RODY VERA IS RUNNING around like a man possessed these days. There are a thousand details to attend to, photo shoots to grace, rehearsals to check out and showdates to finalize as he and the Writers' Bloc, together with the Cultural Center of the Philippines and its resident theater company Tanghalang Pilipino, gear up for the Virgin Labfest, now on its third year.

The Labfest is a modest festival of "untried, untested, unpublished and unstaged" plays that are culled from the twice-monthly critical readings that members of the Writers' Bloc hold among themselves. Its first two incarnations offered 15 new one-act plays; this year, the repertoire has expanded, with 18 plays (including three from visiting foreign playwrights) as well as staged readings and platform events, all to be held in various venues at the CCP.

The festival will unfold in five sets consisting of three plays each, plus one independently produced trilogy—each set clustered loosely around a theme. Vera and Dennis Marasigan, Tanghalang Pilipino's artistic director, curated the material. Vera says his criteria for inclusion are quite basic.

"One, the play must run for a maximum of 40 minutes. Anything beyond that will disrupt the running time of the other two plays. Two, in that span of time, *nakumpleto ba ang istorya, nabuhol ba ng tama? Me* arc *ba?* And third, we're looking for something that's not been done yet. Kung *sala* set drama *man yan, me nagawa ba siyang kakaiba?*"

He cites as an example George Vail Kabristante's "My Padir is an OCW," part of the third set of plays "XX and X: Babala: Hindi Pang-Isip Bata" that's scheduled to run for four performances on June 30 and July 5-6.

"It has interesting characters, about transvestites and dancers. It has the usual locations, but George has a different take on it. *Ang* feeling *nga niya* drama *ang* play *niya,* but *tingin namin* comedy *siya!*"

Ambiguous, experimental

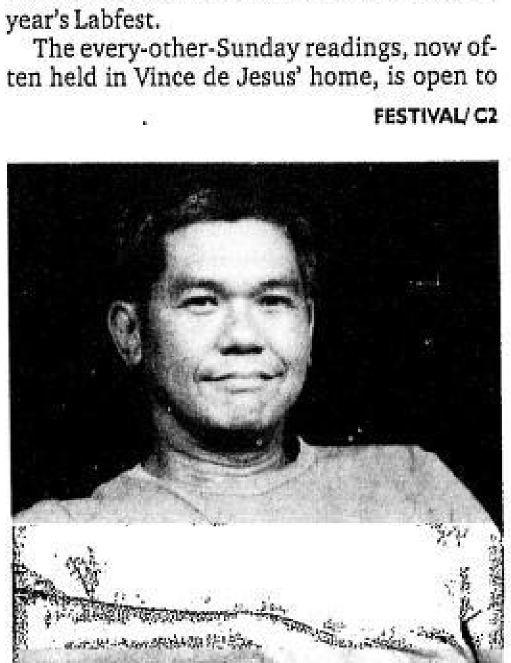
Dramatic works that admit ambiguity, experimentation, a more open-ended approach to theater fascinate Vera. It's what led him and other members of the Writers' Bloc to stage Labfest in the first place.

"Our original vision for the Labfest is really theater just for the fun of it. *Isa sa mga ikinalungkot ko yung pagkawala ng* Dulaang Talyer, *yung mga* experimental-type theater productions. *Nawawala kasi ang* daring to get out of the box, and what rules is the fear of the market."

Members of the Writers' Bloc get their guidance, inspiration and lessons in the craft from senior members like Vera who are established names in theater, with successfully staged works and the requisite awards to show for them. These luminaries also include Rene Villanueva and Nicolas Pichay, whose own new works were on exhibit in last year's Labfest.

The every-other-Sunday readings, now often held in Vince de Jesus' home, is open to

FESTIVAL/ C2



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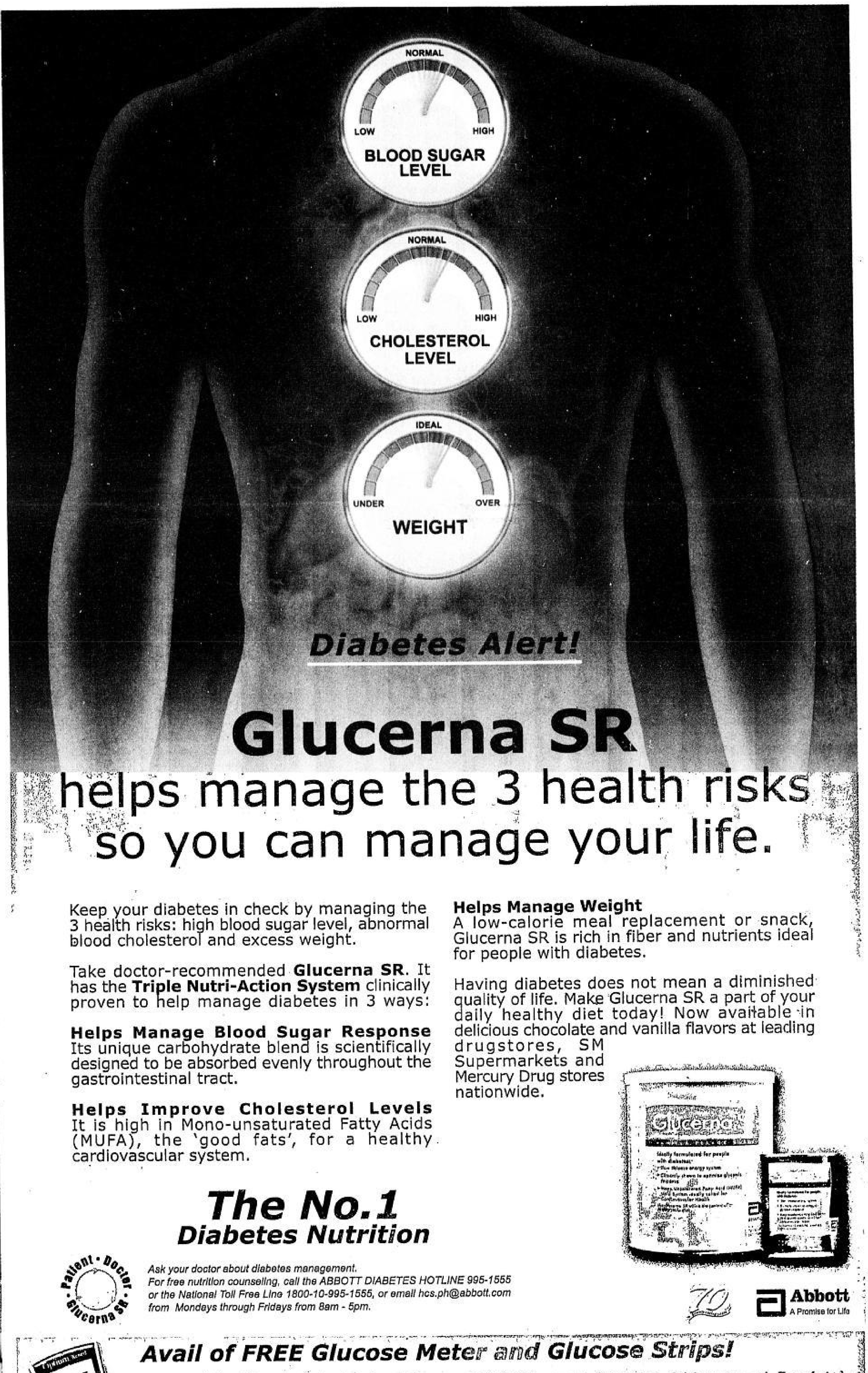

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Retro Pinoy band conquers Hawaii

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

THE BLOOMFIELDS

HONOLULU Mayor Mufi Hannemann jamming with the band

THEY CAME. THEY played. They conquered. Indeed, the Bloomfields, a bunch of zestful youngsters in suits, took Hawaii by storm, literally holding in the palm of their hands Filipino-Americans who listened and danced to their music.

The occasion was the Freedom Bash, a dinner-dance affair held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel's Coral Ballroom last June 10. The bash was part of the weeklong Freedom Fest held in connection with the 109th anniversary celebration of Philippine Independence.

Making up the band, all of whom do vocals, are Ronald Anthony "Rocky" Collado, drums; Ruben Luis Antonio "Louie" Poco, bass guitar; José "Pepe" Lozano II, guitar; Gregorio "JJ" Lozano Jr., guitar/harmonica; and Lakan Emmanuel "Lakan" Hila, keyboard. They are all alumni of La Salle Greenhills who take the music of the '60s seriously, and play "daddy music" superbly, which they call "happy music."

The Consulate General of the Philippines, headed by Consul General Ariel Y. Abadilla, together with the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii, chaired by Eddie Agas Sr., spearheaded Freedom Bash, with Leo Gozar overseeing it.

Abadilla said the concert was a momentous and joyful moment for the Filipino-Hawaiians.

The bash was a travel experience to the '60s that saw the rise of rock and roll, a time when everyone talked of peace, love, freedom and happiness, Gozar recalled.

This year's celebration was a departure from the usual gatherings of dinners and speeches. Abadilla said the Freedom Bash was inspired by the sounds of the retro band. Apart from the fashion and social freedoms associated with the '60s, he said the Freedom Bash "connotes freedom from colonization of Spain and the US."

Thus, according to him, "the '60s were more progressive" for at the time the Philippines was, in fact, "the second most progressive country in Asia after Japan." The '60s were "a decade of spirit, of freedom, of expression, of peace... It's the right of the Filipinos to get freedom."

The audience came in '60s retro costume. Some donned their best Afro look; some glittered in their Gypsy attire; others wore mini skirts, complete with knee-long boots; and still others wore the inverted cross pendant, the symbol of peace.

A few bars after the Bloomfields had sang their opening ditty, the Beatles' "All My Lovin'," the dance floor buzzed with rocking dancers; nonstop dancing continued for almost an hour.

Some listened and sang along; others bopped their heads, and the others who could not fit in the space of the dance floor danced at the other end of the hall, twisting, rocking and swinging the boogie woogie.

Serenade

The Harana Trio, composed of entrepreneurs Larry Ordoñez, Jeff Caberto, and Roland Casamina, did the front act and dished out sentimental Philippine love songs that didn't fail to tug at the listeners' hearts—truly a poignant counterpoint to the Bloomfields' rock music.

Dancing came to a brief respite when charming emcee Amelia Casamina Cabatu acknowledged the presence of Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, who was called to the stage to give a brief message. The good mayor extended his warmest greetings on the celebration of Philippine Independence, citing the Filipinos for their valor, perseverance and industry.

In response to the audience clamor for a song, he obligingly jammed with the Bloomfields, intoning in his deep baritone voice the Beatles' "Hard Day's Night" followed by a reprise of "All My Lovin'" to the delight of everyone.

Singing and dancing continued with more '60s songs from the Beach Boys and rock 'n' roll songs from the '50s. The Bloomfields' current hit "Ale," the second single from their debut album, the first being "Wala ng Iba," was thunderously applauded.

Despite the Bloomfields' announcement of their final rendition, the audience simply refused to leave and asked for many more encores, which the band gladly obliged.

A few hours earlier in the same venue, the Bloomfields wowed their select listeners at the VIP reception with a brief performance that lasted half an hour. The audience was composed of high-ranking federal and state officials, business and community leaders, media representatives, and major sponsors, led by James R. "Duke" Aiona Jr., lieutenant governor of the State of Hawaii.

Part of the Freedom Fest celebration was a formal lecture-video presentation on "Philippine Music, a Historical Overview," by this writer, at the University of Hawaii in Manoa's (UHM) Center for Korean Studies Auditorium.

The presentation was an intertextual (trans-disciplinal) fusion of history and music aimed at a broad understanding of Philippine culture, through the musical arts and history that covered pre-colonial, Spanish, American and post-colonial periods. It was made possible through the invitation of Consul General Abadilla to complement the Bloomfields performance.

Attended by professors, music experts and enthusiasts, the lecture was well-received and was "exactly the right level of discourse for the audience," said professor Ricardo D. Trimillos, chair of Asian Studies Program and professor of Ethnomusicology.

Days after the celebration, Abadilla e-mailed that the Filipino-American community in Hawaii were still rocking and rolling, and many queries are being made as to when the Bloomfields would be back.

For the Bloomfields, the experience was exhilarating; in fact a noble one for having had the chance to gloriously participate with their countrymen, in a faraway land such as Hawaii, in the celebration of the country's independence anniversary, all done in response to a patriotic call.

Visit the Bloomfields' website, thebloomfieldsband.com. Call the band's manager, George Mercado, at 0917-5007010.

Festival of fearless virgins

From page C1

everyone, tyro or veteran, Writers' Bloc member or not.

"You don't have to be a member *para magpabasa*," says Vera. And *marami yung wala pa talagang alam sa pagsusulat ng dula, kahit na yung* mechanics of writing. But *ako, 'di ako naiinis dun.* The most important thing *ngayon* is for them to write. *Saka na natin pag-usapan kung maganda.*"

"It can get very animated and heated," adds Vera, laughing. "Though *di kami ganun ka*-brutal like some literary workshops where *parang, 'Wag ka nang magsulat!'* What we have is *baliktad sa* formal workshop where, '*eto yung* elements of drama, etc.' *Dito*, based on the material *talaga ang* lessons learned."

In the end, what Vera and company zero in are elements that make for a good play: "An interesting turn of events, an element of surprise, depth, *may gustong sabihin, dulas ng linya.*"

Greater buzz

The Labfest's insistence on the unconventional and the untested, its preference for the thematically and stylistically daring, has increasingly drawn the attention not only of Filipino playwrights eager to have their works showcased in it, but also of actors and directors hungry for new material to play with.

Last year's festival generated greater buzz when theater stars Nonie Buencamino and Irma Adlawan, acting on stage together for the first time, appeared in Liza Magtoto's "Hubad," directed by a first-time director, Denisa Reyes.

And one of its featured entries, "The Palanca On My Mind," written by upcoming playwright Job Pagsibigan and staged by Roobak Valle, subsequently won first prize in the Palanca Awards.

"Aside from new works by writers, we've also been able to tap new directors like Tuxqs Rutaquio and JV Villareal, or established directors trying their hand in the Labfest for the first time," says Vera.

Among the heavyweights coming on board for the first time are José Estrella, Dulaang UP artistic director who's staging Japanese playwright Yoji Sakate's Noh play, "Three Sisters," and Trumpets' Jaime del Mundo, who's directing "He-Me-She-It," by Thai playwright Narumol Thammapruksa. Rito Asilo, associate artistic director of New Voice Company, is also at the helm of J. Dennis Teodosio's "Bagahe."

SCENE from Arlo de Guzman's "Three Unsent Letters," part of the Third Virgin Labfest

Glaring truth

"I'll admit that in this collection [of plays], *meron pa ding may* flaws, writing-wise: stilted dialogue, *malabo ang* characters, *o masyadong* in-your-face," says Vera. But he says it's all part of the process of honing the craft. What he laments more strongly is the seeming unwillingness of many young writers to tackle socially engaged material, to explore topical issues.

"Post-modernism is responsible for sucking politics out of theater," says Vera. "Modern theater now is, 'truth is relative and therefore there is no truth.' *E paglabas mo naman sa teatro*, the truth is so glaring."

Still, he's gratified that something like the Virgin Labfest, which shines the spotlight on the contemporary Filipino playwright, is taking place and is gradually drawing critical recognition.

"I'm hoping that this will extend beyond more than just the usual na *nanonood ng teatro*. Now, we can test how word-of-mouth will work since there will be four performances per play," he says.

"For first-time directors and actors, *sana mag*-enjoy *sila sa* experience. *Sa aming mga* playwrights, the Virgin Labfest is a venue to be fearless, *na di kami matakot mag*-fail. I'd like to see more plays *na di mo maikakahon, na madaming* layers and with different meanings. I would rather have a lot of emerging playwrights get a chance to show their work, so that *kahit na* only two or three of them would shine, okay *na* [for Philippine theater]."

The Virgin Labfest runs June 28-July 8 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. See sidebar for show schedules. Call 8323661, 8323704 or 8919999 for tickets.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gibbscadiz.com

Third Virgin Labfest

Show schedules

International Night is a compilation of plays submitted by foreign playwrights: "He-Me-She-It" (by Narumol Thammapruksa, directed by Jaime del Mundo), "Lizard" (Haresh Sharma, directed by Nicolas Pichay), "Three Sisters" (a Noh play by Yoji Sakate, directed by José Estrella). Tanghalang Huseng Batute, June 28 (3 p.m./8 p.m.), July 7 (8 p.m.) and July 8 (3 p.m.).

Madadramang Pamilya—Household drama but not telenovela fare: "Teroristang Labandera" (Debbie Ann Tan, directed by Yoshi Toshihisa), "Bagahe" (Dennis Teodosio, directed by Rito Asilo), "Looking for Darna" (Lani Montreal, directed by Khryss Adalia). Tanghalang Huseng Batute, June 29 (3 p.m./8 p.m.), July 5 (3 p.m.) and July 8 (8 p.m.).

XX and X is the most unsettling and disturbing compilation of the season. Come with an open mind and expect the unexpected: "Séance" (Auggie Arcenas, directed by EricK Castro), "Kasaysayan" (Allan Lopez, directed by Victor Villareal), "My Padir is an OCW" (George Vail Kabristante). Tanghalang Huseng Batute, June 30 (3 p.m./8 p.m.), July 5 (8 p.m.) and July 6 (3 p.m.).

Ang Pagdadalaga at Iba Pang Rebelasyon provides another take on forbidden loves, sexual desire and the fruits it reaps, both good and evil: "Kuyom" (Argel Tuason, directed by John Abul), "Three Unsent Letters" (Arlo de Guzman, directed by Nor Domingo), "Ellas Inosentes" (Layeta Bucoy, directed by Tuxqs Rutaquio). Tanghalang Huseng Batute, July 1 (3 p.m./8 p.m.), July 6 (8 p.m.) and July 7 (3 p.m.).

Children's Plays: "Bertdey ni Guido" (Rene Villanueva, performed by the Dulaang Sipat Lawin Ensemble and directed by George de Jesus III), "Mga Obra ni Maestra" (Niel de Mesa), "Kung Pwede Sanang Ipagpalit ang Tatay" (James Cansanay, directed by Catherine Racsag). Bulwagang Amado Hernandez, June 29 (3 p.m.), June 30 (10 p.m./3 p.m.) and July 1 (3 p.m.).

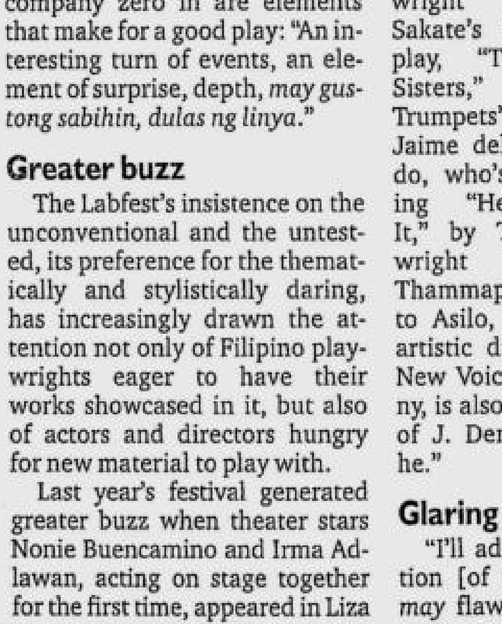
Identity and Politics: "May Bumubulong" (Job Pagsibigan, directed by Christian Bautista), "Pobreng Alindahaw" (Dennis Teodosio, directed by Delfin Ilao), "Sa Pagdating ng Barbaro" (Rogelio Braga, directed by Nick Olanka). Bulwagang Amado Hernandez, July 6 (8 p.m.), July 7 (3 p.m./8 p.m.) and July 8 (3 p.m.).

Public readings of full-length plays will be at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (7 p.m.): Glen Mas' "Games People Play" (June 29), Rene Villanueva's "Baby B." (June 30), Tim Dacanay's "Teatro Porvenir" (July 6) and "Huling Salubong" by Malou Jacob (July 7).

Platform events at the Bulwagang Carlos Francisco at 5:45 p.m., June 28-July 1 and July 5-8.

Tickets to the Virgin Labfest are at P200 (for plays to be shown at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute and Bulwagang Amado Hernandez) and "Pay What You Can" (for play readings at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino). Call 8323661, 8323704 or 8919999 for tickets.

Coming soon: Art that transforms



AN ENTRY in the Virgin Labfest

From page C1

ated by artists' collectives, including the Banglos Sculptors of General Nakar, Quezon.

Expectant mothers and fathers will surely be interested in the concert titled "Cradle Music: Symphony for Babes and Babies" in July, 3 p.m., at the CCP's Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater). It will feature the Metro Manila Symphony Orchestra under Chino Toledo, Kuya Ony the ventriloquist, Ding-Dong the gorilla and actors from Tanghalang Pilipino.

Let's hope the little tykes will not bring, scream or wail the house down. Levity aside, classical music—notably that of Mozart—has been known to have soothing, beneficial effects on children.

All these innovative programs and events will be complemented by the regular seasons from the CCP resident companies like the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Ballet Philippines, Tanghalang Pilipino, Philippine Ballet Theater, plus the Filipino Artists Series, now celebrating its 20th year.

As the CCP TV ad puts it: "*'Di ba maganda kung may* art *sa buhay mo?*" (Isn't life beautiful if you have art?).

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Labangon, Cebu City
Visayas

Julieta Olivar
Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City
Mindanao

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May 10, 2007

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NCR

Michell C. Acosta
Rosales, Pangasinan
North Luzon

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'The arts can be an effective tool in changing people's mindset,' CCP's Nanding Josef says

Coming soon: Art that transforms

KABAYAO family

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

"THE ARTS CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE TOOL IN changing people's mindset," declared Nanding Josef, vice-president and artistic director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"We have been using therapy for children traumatized by natural calamities and armed conflicts," he added. "The present CCP administration would like to focus for the next few years largely on art as a potent tool for transforming lives, communities and places, and transforming them for the better."

Josef, who is also a character actor, spoke at the recent press conference that announced the CCP's programs and projects for the rest of the year.

Emily Abrera, chair of the CCP board of trustees, said that "what we are trying to achieve here is a better living environment for all of us, art having a connection with everyday life."

Helping illustrate the point was Junyee's environmental art exhibit on the CCP's front lawn, consisting of 10,000 tree stumps and 10 km of nylon rope. This is to protest the continuing abuse of the environment by illegal loggers. But the symbols of death are now surrounded by symbols of life, for the Green Army has planted seedlings around the tree stumps.

And in the main lobby, during the presscon, stood a parlor grand piano being constructed by Alwin Reamillo for his father, who operated the last of the piano factories before the onset of electronic instruments.

"The project is, therefore, about the transformation of memory and loss into something creative and commemorative," said Josef.

Found objects were another unique feature of the press conference. Media persons were asked to choose one and bring this to the table of the visual artists, who then transformed the ordinary objects into works of art.

Alma Quinto and Miho Nakamishi, for example, painted lovely nature-inspired scenes on a pair of jeans. Sculptor Ral Arrogante fashioned out a swing, which would delight a child, from discarded wires. And Jay Pacena drew eyes on miniature objects because, he said these were always "observing" us.

Healing

"Trauma, Interrupted" runs until July 29 featuring works by women artists from six countries which explore the link between trauma, art and healing.

Some of the works focus on the healing process. Lyra Abueg Garcellano has a photo-based installation of trauma in private and domestic spaces. Alma Quinto collaborated with a child survivor of Supertyphoon Reming, while Sally Gutierrez.(from Spain) unveils a video installation with a therapy—"crying room" for healing sexually abused girls.

Delving into the art-community-nature theme is the sculptural show "Dap-Ayan sa Banglos" (until July 15), featuring indigenous works cre-

COMING/ C2

PETER Porticos, pianist

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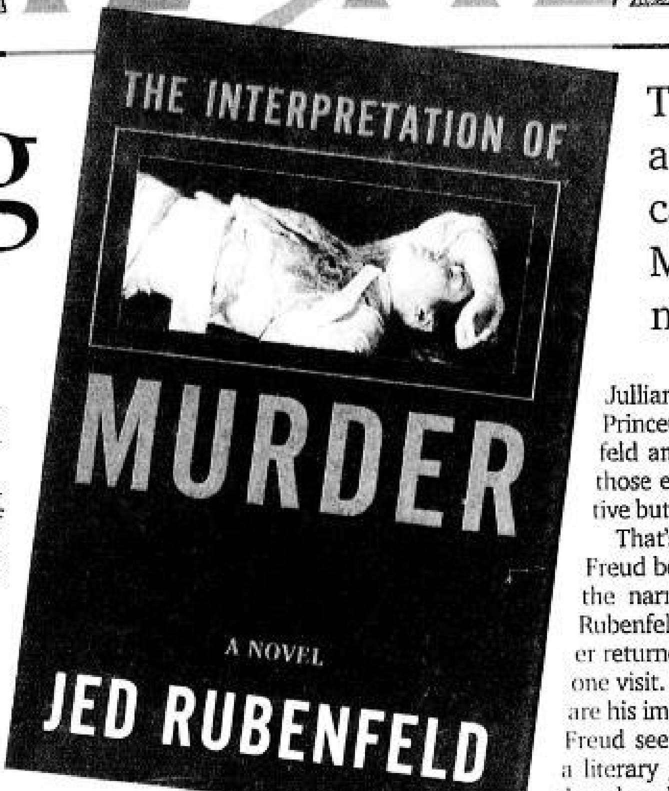
Freud and Jung in whodunit



The father of psychoanalysis chasing a psycho killer in America makes for a catchy premise in 'The Interpretation of Murder,' but the psychobabble makes this novel more narcoleptic than hypnotic

By Ruel S. De Vera

IT IS SO CRAZY AN IDEA that it's nearly irresistible. Imagine Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung matching wits with a mysterious serial killer in 1900s America. That's the catchy premise of Jed Rubenfeld's "The Interpretation of Murder: A Novel" (Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2006, 367 pages).

Rubenfeld applies his dense prose to painting a stunning picture of an American city in metamorphosis: "On every block, enormous steel-beam skeletons appeared where empty lots had been the day before… Capital and speculation drove everything, releasing fantastic energies, distinctly American and individualistic."

Not all those energies are bright, however. Rubenfeld's tale begins with a strange killing that happens just before Freud and Jung, both relatively unknown outside their countries, arrive in the United States to receive honors at Clark University. Freud speaks for both himself and Rubenfeld when he says, while preparing to board a train that would take him into Manhattan, "If they only knew what we are bringing them."

"Murder" unravels mostly from the first-person narrative of the bright physician Stratham Younger, save for the omniscient views that come with private conversations and the covert movements of the perpetrator. The switching is a bit disconcerting, though Younger does make for a charming narrator.

But "Murder" achieves its best momentum when observing the activities of the callow detective, Jimmy Littlemore, assigned by the mayor to solve the baffling murder of a debutante named Elizabeth Riverford. But when the corpse goes missing after the autopsy and another girl is attacked in a similar fashion but survives, the disparate crimes suddenly line up. Overseeing it all is a shadowy group known only as the Triumvirate.

All the while, Freud tours New York, making pithy observations constantly. Younger tails him, describing what goes on with a palpable sense of wonder. But it is the eccentric, brooding Jung whom Younger eventually zooms in on. "The workings of his mind worried me, too, for several different reasons," Younger says of Jung. "His conversation was disjointed, his logic faulty, his insinuations disturbing."

When it becomes clear that the surviving victim—Nora Acton—may be in grave danger, "Murder" hurtles forward, but the cutaways to Freud, circling the crimes' periphery, soon slow the book down to a slogging pace.

Certainly, having Freud as a character is novel, but the serial lectures by Freud are simply so uninteresting, a primal bore. Younger, on the other hand, finds himself falling for Nora, who also happens to be his patient. Add to that the constant references to "Hamlet" and the middle part of "Murder" drags mercilessly.

Rubenfeld makes for the perfect author for this book. A Yale University law professor who studied Shakespeare at Julliard and did his thesis in Princeton on Freud, Rubenfeld ambitiously combines all those elements into an attractive but flawed book.

That's because, ultimately, Freud becomes an albatross for the narrative, especially when Rubenfeld notes that Freud never returned to America after this one visit. The events in "Murder" are his imagined reasons why, yet Freud seems largely ornamental, a literary gimmick mostly. It's all the other characters that bear close watching. Unfortunately, there are so many characters, readers will be hard-pressed to tell them apart, slowing "Murder" down.

What you have then is a surprisingly dark, somewhat anachronistic whodunit set in a time of massive upheaval and promise. Though it regains its momentum, "The Interpretation of Murder" effectively sabotages itself by springing all sorts of murky shenanigans near the end, further muddling the narrative, leaving the reader with a tranquilizer of a thriller that simply has too many head cases in its doctor's bag.

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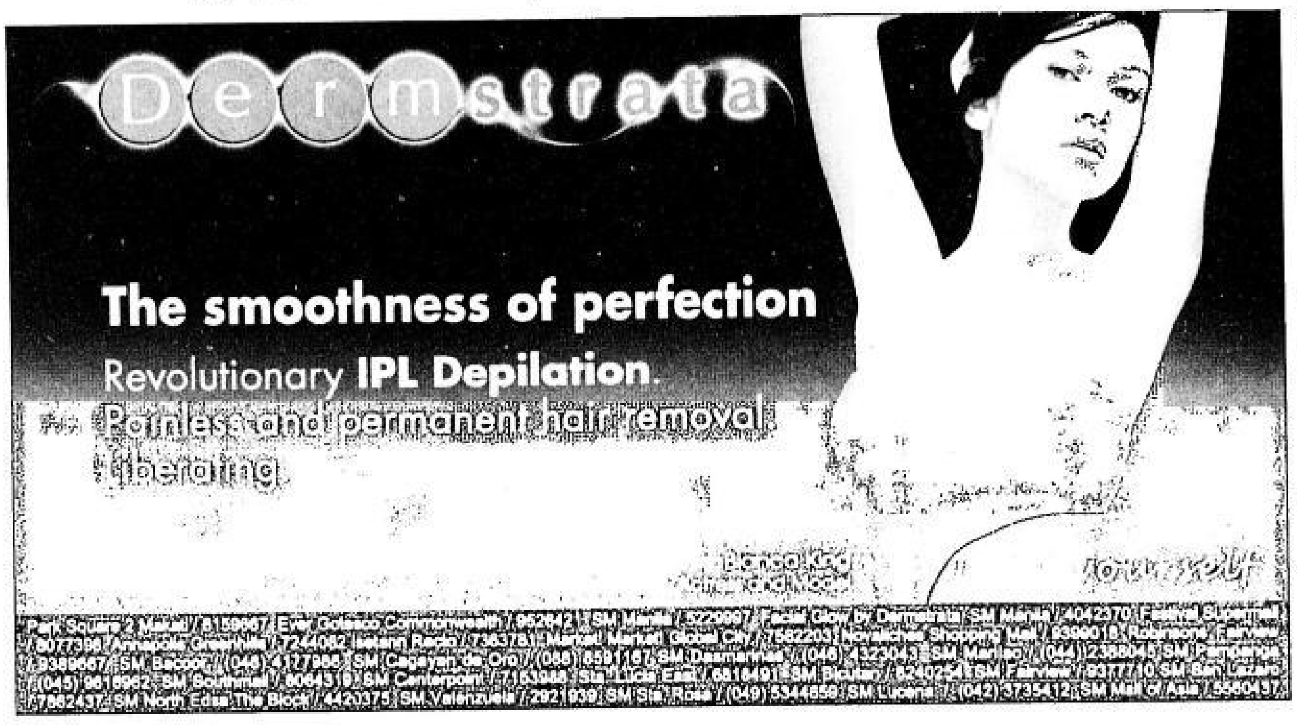
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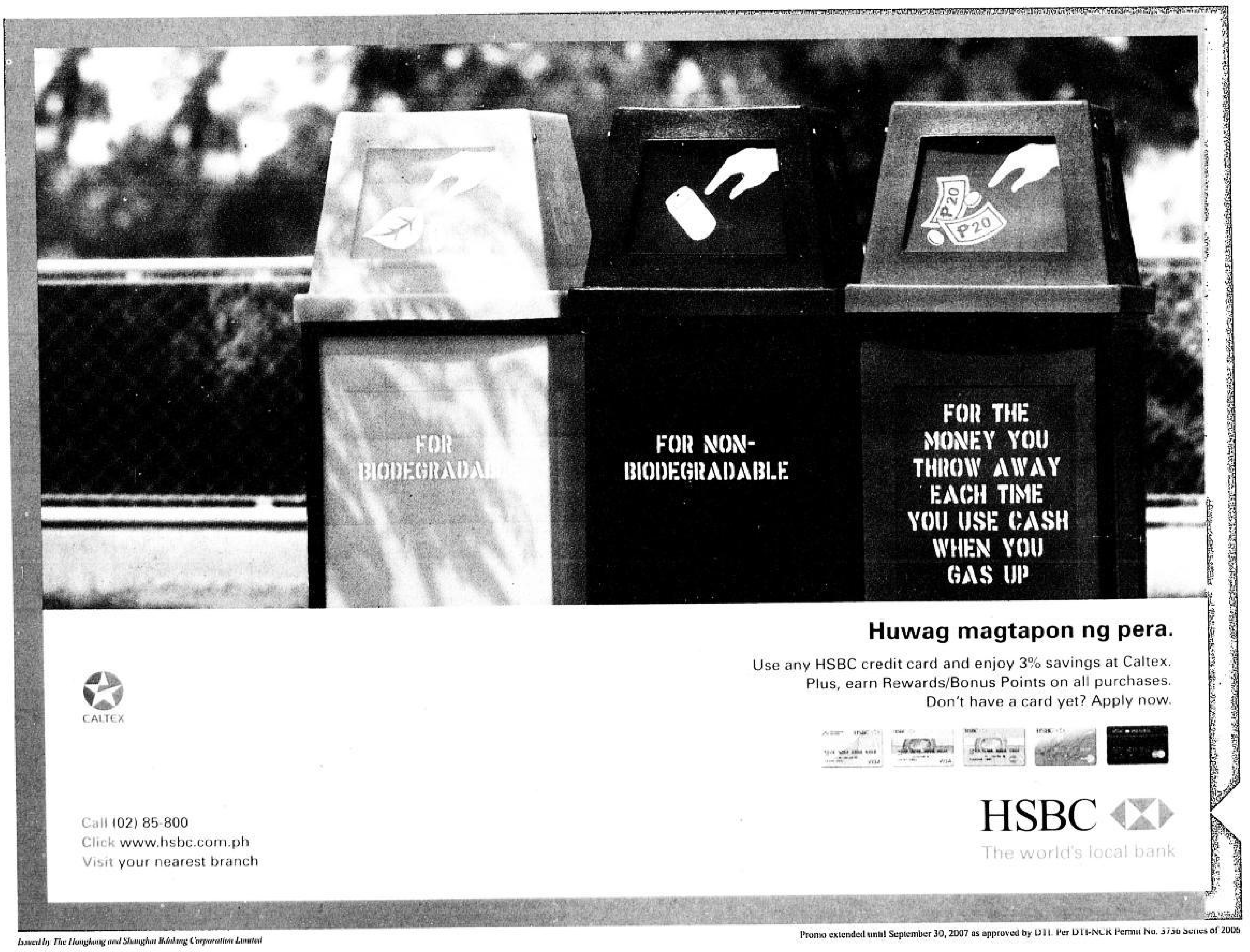

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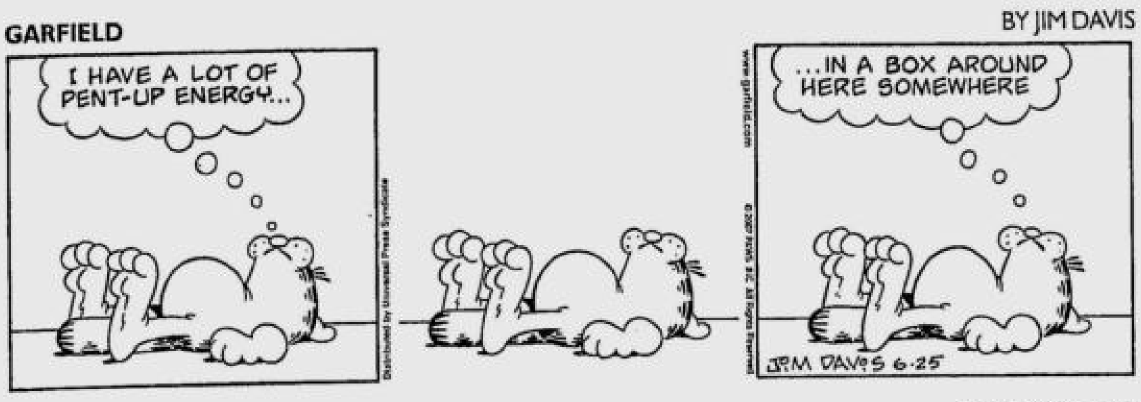
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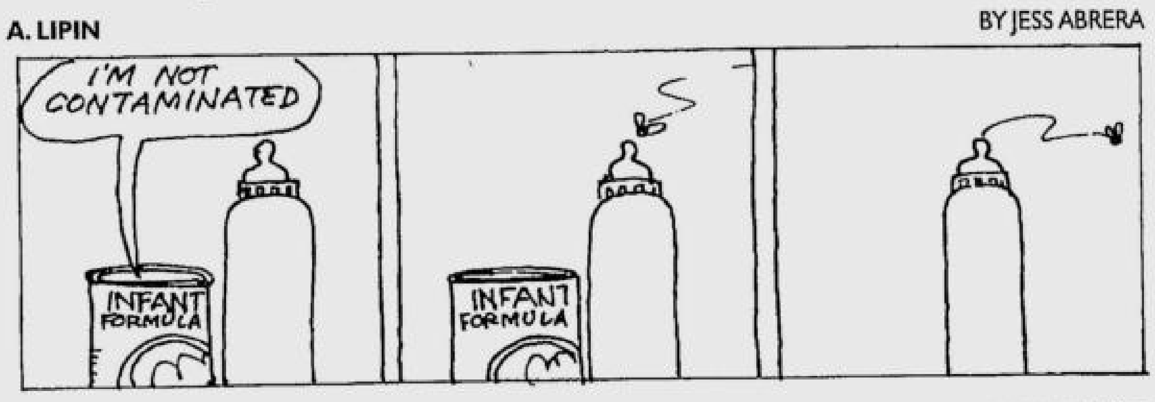
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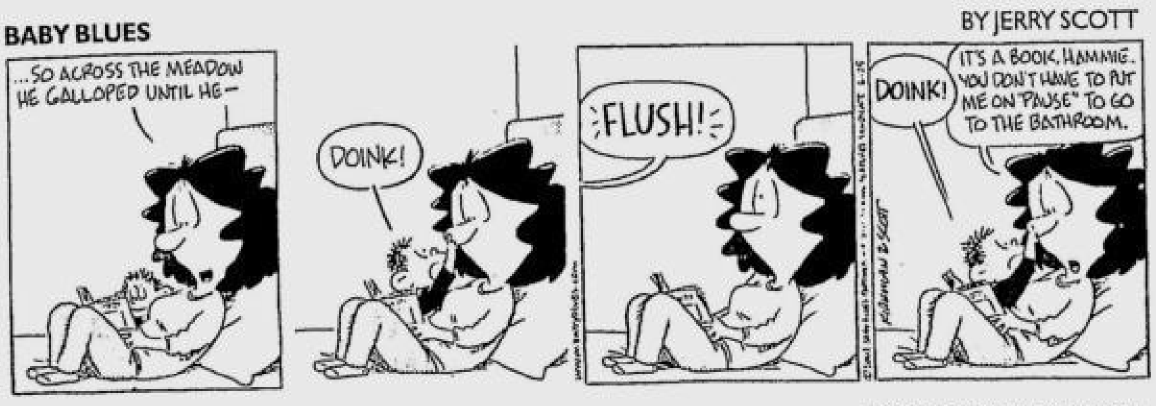
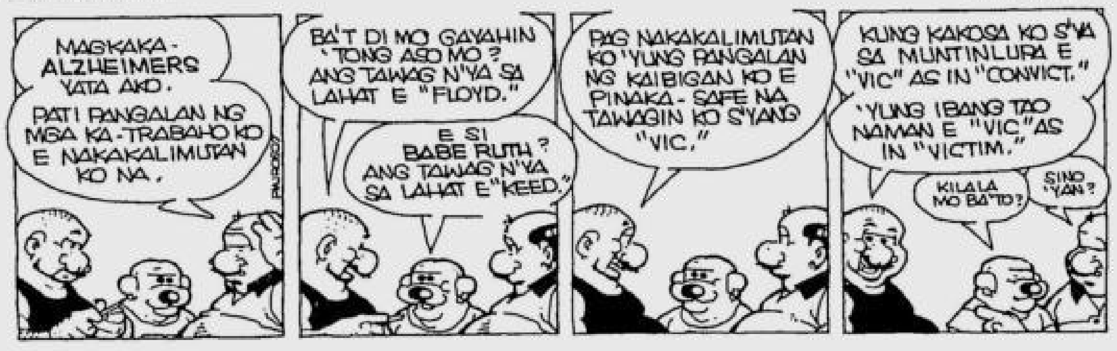

...SO ACROSS THE MEADOW HE GALLOPED UNTIL HE—
DOINK!
FLUSH!
DOINK!
IT'S A BOOK, HAMMIE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT ME ON "PAUSE" TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.

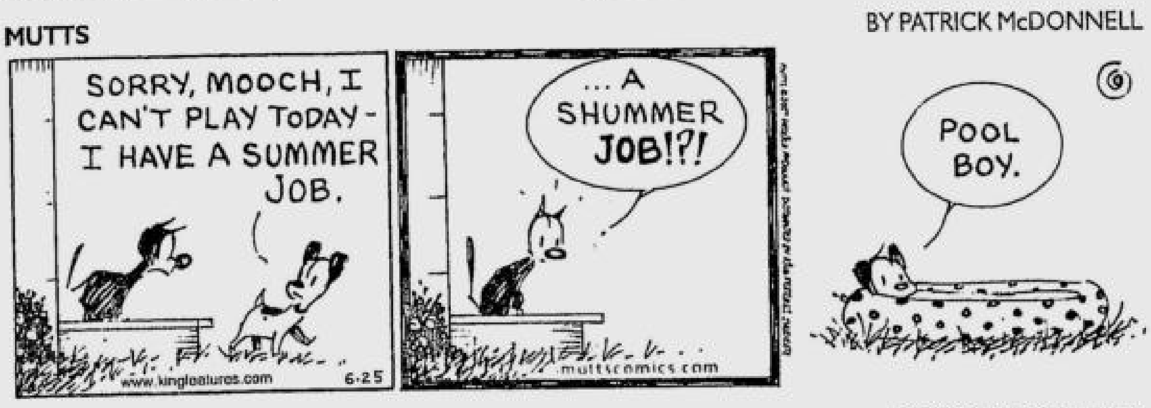
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAGKAKA-ALZHEIMERS YATA AKO.
PATI PANGALAN NG MGA KA-TRABAHO KO E NAKAKALIMUTAN KO NA.
BA'T DI MO GAYAHIN 'TONG ASO MO? ANG TAWAG N'YA SA LAHAT E "FLOYD."
E SI BABE RUTH? ANG TAWAG N'YA SA LAHAT E "KEED."
PAG NAKAKALIMUTAN KO 'YUNG PANGALAN NG KAIBIGAN KO E PINAKA-SAFE NA TAWAGIN KO S'YANG "VIC."
KUNG KAKOSA KO S'YA SA MUNTINLUPA E "VIC" AS IN "CONVICT."
'YUNG IBANG TAO NAMAN E "VIC" AS IN "VICTIM."
KILALA MO BA 'TO?
SINO 'YAN?

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL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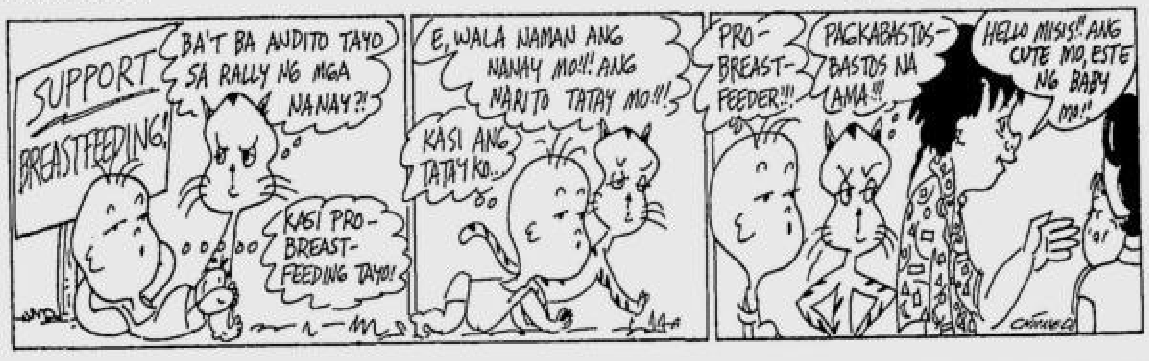
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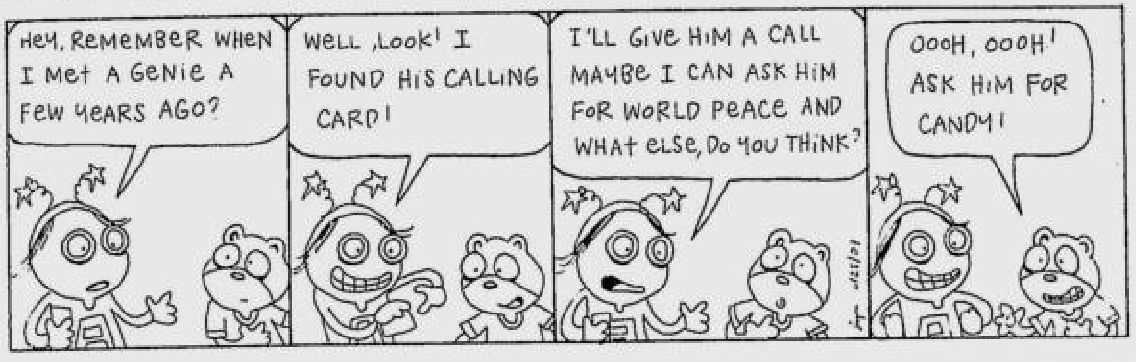
KASI ANG TATAY KO...
PRO-BREAST-FEEDER!!!
PAGKABASTOS-BASTOS NA AMA!!!
HELLO MISIS!! ANG CUTE MO, ESTE NG BABY MO!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

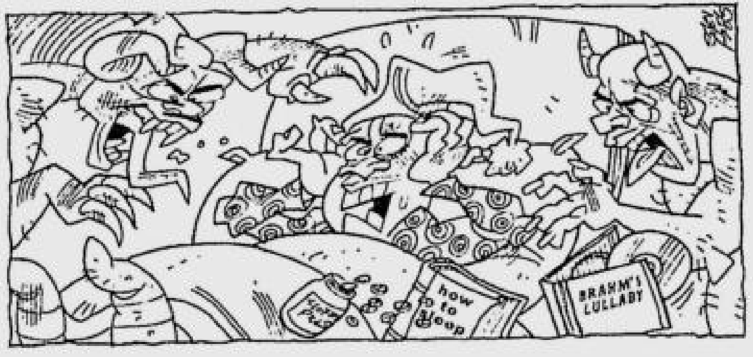
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, REMEMBER WHEN I MET A GENIE A FEW YEARS AGO?
WELL, LOOK! I FOUND HIS CALLING CARD!
I'LL GIVE HIM A CALL MAYBE I CAN ASK HIM FOR WORLD PEACE AND WHAT ELSE, DO YOU THINK?
OOOH, OOOH! ASK HIM FOR CANDY!

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

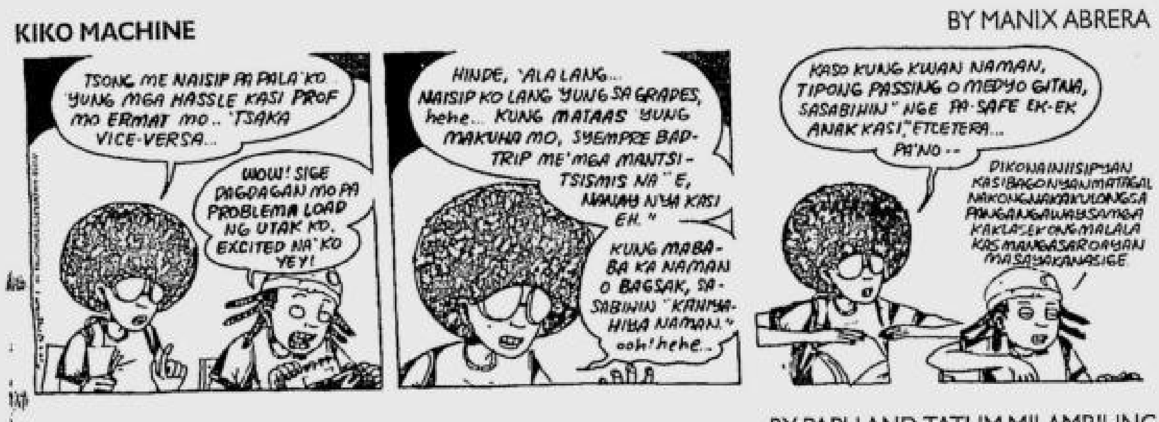
MGA ILANG GABI NA RIN NA HINDI NAKAKATULOG SI ANDRENG. INAKALA NYA NA SYA AY TINO-TORTURE LAMANG NG MGA MASAMANG ESPIRITU....


how to sleep
BRAHM'S LULLABY

NGUNIT ANG TOTOONG DAHILAN PALA KUNG BAKIT HINDI SYA NAKAKATULOG AY DAHIL HINDI NA SYA MAKAPAGHINTAY SA OPENING DAY NG PELIKULA NA "TRANSFORMERS"

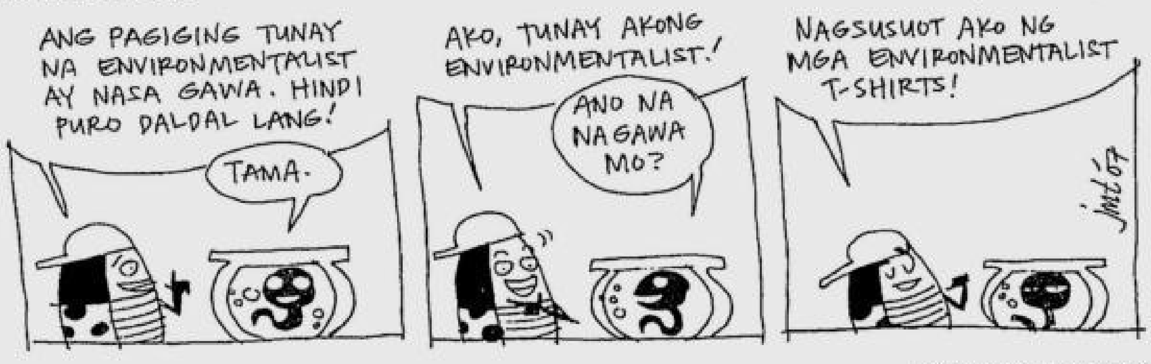
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG ME NAISIP PA PALA KO. 'YUNG MGA HASSLE KASI PROF MO ERMAT MO.. 'TSAKA VICE-VERSA...
WOW! SIGE DAGDAGAN MO PA PROBLEMA LOAD NG UTAK KO. EXCITED NA' KO YEY!
HINDE, 'ALA LANG... NAISIP KO LANG 'YUNG SA GRADES, hehe... KUNG MATAAS 'YUNG MAKUHA MO, SYEMPRE BAD-TRIP ME'MGA MANTSI-TSISMIS NA "E, NANAY N'YA KASI EH."
KUNG MABABA KA NAMAN O BAGSAK, SASABIHIN "KANYA-HIYA NAMAN." ooh! hehe...
KASO KUNG KWAN NAMAN, TIPONG PASSING O MEDYO GITNA, SASABIHIN" NGE PA-SAFE EK-EK ANAK KASI," ETCETERA... PA'NO--
DIKONAINIISIPYAN KASIBAGONYANMATAGAL NAKONGNAKAKULONGSA PANGANGAWAYSAMGA KAKLASEKONGMALALA KASMANGASAROYAN MASAYAKANASIGE

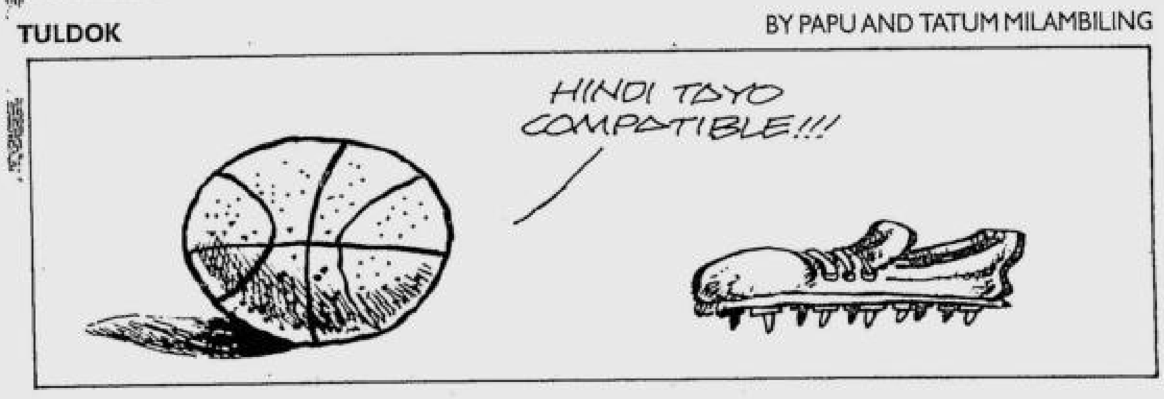
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG PAGIGING TUNAY NA ENVIRONMENTALIST AY NASA GAWA. HINDI PURO DALDAL LANG!
TAMA.
AKO, TUNAY AKONG ENVIRONMENTALIST!
ANO NA NAGAWA MO?
NAGSUSUOT AKO NG MGA ENVIRONMENTALIST T-SHIRTS!

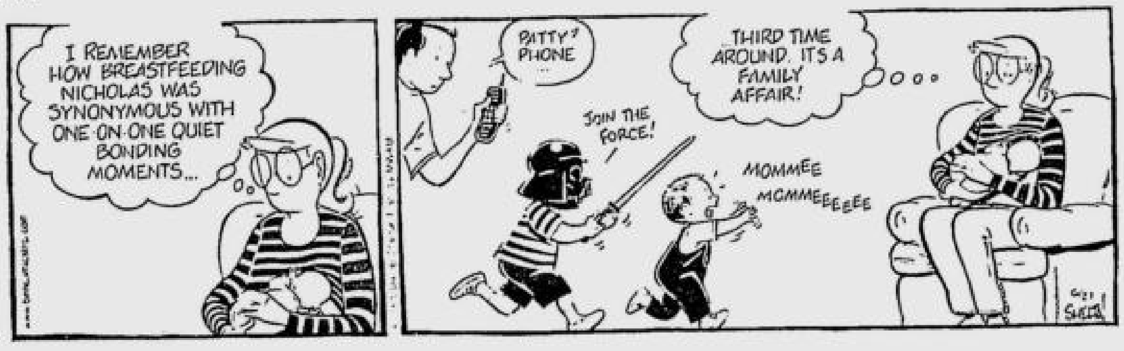
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HINDI TAYO COMPATIBLE!!!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I REMEMBER HOW BREASTFEEDING NICHOLAS WAS SYNONYMOUS WITH ONE-ON-ONE QUIET BONDING MOMENTS...
PITTY? PHONE ...
JOIN THE FORCE!
...THIRD TIME AROUND. IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR!
MOMMEE
MOMMEEEEEEE

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Diamond weight
6 "Pirates of the Caribbean" star
10 Seth's father
14 Got up
15 Nobelist Wiesel
16 Went by car
17 Knockout drink
19 Henry Gray subj.
20 Bed or home ending
21 Harm
23 Addition figure
26 Malevolent
28 Shown the way
29 More hackneyed
31 African antelope
33 "__ of God"
34 Jacob's twin
36 Gillette razor
39 Cloth tear
40 Violent weather
41 Prince of amphibians?
42 Small group
43 As a result
44 Chopin opus
45 __ nous (confidentially)
47 Pollen-bearing organ
48 Dad
50 Road to conflict
53 Cauldron
54 Polar covering
56 Stan's partner
58 Actress Patricia
59 Government by the wealthy
64 Fictional plantation
65 Architect Saarinen
66 Texas A&M student
67 Exclusively
68 Antarctic ice shelf
69 Burdens

DOWN

1 Eccentric wheel
2 Jackie's second
3 Mythical bird
4 Requests
5 Cuts canines
6 Trim meat
7 Leave out in elocution
8 Wrestling feat
9 Oscillating body
10 Composer Khachaturian
11 New York property mogul
12 Truism
13 Given out in portions
18 Once around the sun
22 Chicken/king connection
23 Beginning
24 Inciter
25 Old-time Opry regular
27 Phobias
30 Rockies range
32 U.S.-Mex.-Can. pact
34 Knockout gas
35 Old French coin
37 Cowboy show
38 Representative
40 Hunk of a man
44 Honorable
46 H. Hughes' airline
47 City near Caen
48 Spotted pony
49 Vast expanse
51 Decants
52 Choir voices
55 Pottery material
57 Cogito __ sum
60 Zodiac cat
61 __ Khan IV
62 Spanish hero, El __
63 Affirmative

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				■	16			
17					18					■	19			
■	■	■	20					■	21	22				
23	24	25	■	26				27			■	28		
29			30			■	■	31			32		■	■
33					■	34	35			■	36		37	38
39				■	40					■	41			
42				■	43				■	44				
■	■	45		46			■	■	47					
48	49		■	50			51	52			■	53		
54			55			■	56				57	■	■	■
58				■	59	60						61	62	63
64				■	65				■	66				
67				■	68				■	69				

By Alex Kochergin
Sunnyvale, CA

6/25/07

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	R	A	W	S	■	A	L	L	S	E	W	N	U	P
R	E	L	A	Y	■	L	O	U	I	S	I	A	N	A
O	M	A	R	S	■	L	A	M	B	A	S	T	E	S
N	A	M	■	■	R	O	N	■	■	■	H	A	A	S
K	N	E	S	S	E	T	■	I	N	C	E	N	S	E
I	N	D	I	A	N	■	U	N	S	O	R	T	E	D
T	E	A	S	P	O	O	N	F	U	L	S	■	■	■
E	D	S	■	■	■	R	I	O	■	■	■	M	A	R
■	■	■	A	P	O	S	T	R	O	P	H	I	Z	E
M	A	G	N	E	T	O	S	■	L	E	A	R	N	S
A	V	I	G	N	O	N	■	R	A	T	T	R	A	P
D	E	A	L	■	■	■	K	E	N	■	■	O	V	O
E	R	N	E	S	T	I	N	E	■	A	A	R	O	N
U	N	T	R	A	I	N	E	D	■	I	L	E	U	S
P	O	S	S	E	S	S	E	S	■	M	A	D	R	E

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6/25/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Many of you tackle huge projects and successfully complete them. (This is an important accomplishment for you.) You are aware of trends in society; you are also a shrewd observer of the human condition. You love family and home. You have an excellent imagination, which can border on the prophetic. Work hard to build or construct something in the coming year.

Birthdate of: Carly Simon, singer/songwriter; Angela Kinsey, actress; Carlos Delgado, baseball player/humanitarian.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's easy to feel critical of yourself, especially if you're a parent. Just remember: Nobody is perfect, and you're doing the best you can.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be patient with family members who seem to let you down today. Perhaps your expectations were not realistic. Be gentle with yourself and others

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today you might feel crippled by feelings of doubt or self-criticism. Lighten up! Cut yourself some slack. You're just another frail mortal dealing with the reality of life.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Some kind of financial news or perhaps something related to your possessions disappoints you today. You might have thought you had something when, in fact, you do not.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a difficult day for dealing with partners and close friends. It's very easy to expect too much from others or to blame them for some reason. Go gently.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Friends or perhaps your relationship with children causes you to second-guess yourself today. It's very easy for people to beat themselves up today. Don't even go there!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): What is ideal and what is possible are sometimes very far apart, but this is a harsh truth. Just accept what is today, and be thankful for that.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Relations with bosses, parents and family members are strained today. Perhaps someone is expecting too much from you. Or perhaps you are expecting too much from others

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't get your belly in a rash worrying about something you cannot change. Don't blame yourself for whatever falls through today. It's just life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Financial matters might be disappointing today. This happens so easily. (Why is there always so much month left at the end of the money?)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You will have to be extra-patient with partners and close friends today. This is the only way to keep the peace with those you love. Remain calm and mellow.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's never easy to hear criticisms about your work. (Everyone hates this!) Possibly unexpressed expectations or confusion of some kind are the reason for these accusations. Get all your facts before jumping to conclusions.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

	7	8	4	5		6		
		3	2					4
5							8	9
			9		5		2	3
3				2				5
2	8		1		7			
4	3							1
6					2	5		
		1		9	4	2	3	

Difficulty Level ★

6/25

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	3	6	9	2	1	7	8	4
4	1	8	3	7	5	2	6	9
9	2	7	6	8	4	1	5	3
6	4	2	1	9	7	5	3	8
8	5	9	2	4	3	6	1	7
3	7	1	8	5	6	4	9	2
7	6	4	5	3	9	8	2	1
1	8	3	4	6	2	9	7	5
2	9	5	7	1	8	3	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/24

THE BIG ... GHOST
PUPPY LOVE
Clifford's Book About Me by Me (and Clifford, too)
Geronimo Stilton
A FABUMOUSE VACATION FOR GERONIMO
THE SECRET OF CACKLEFUR CASTLE
CAPTAIN

Helping kids love books and reading

PUT A TV, A VIDEOGAME AND a book in front of an average, kid, and chances are, the kid will pick the TV or the videogame—not the book.

Yet reading books is one of the best ways to build a child's character and open his or her mind to new ideas.

"Readers are more self-confident. They can express themselves better, they think for themselves, and they create their own ideas," points out Melanie Belen, country vice president of Scholastic Philippines. This is why she insists that reading should be everybody's business.

And that's exactly what Scholastic Philippines strives to do: make reading everybody's business. By bringing well-written, colorful, superbly designed reading materials for children of all ages and interests, and making these more affordable to parents and schools, Scholastic fulfills its goal to "reach and inspire every child to read more, learn more, understand themselves better and ultimately lead better lives."

Scholastic entered the Philippine market in 2000 when the company acquired Grolier, a leading publisher of reference materials since 1962. The merger brought Scholastic's innovative approach to children's books together with Grolier's extensive experience as a provider of trusted reference books.

Scholastic is perhaps best-known as the publisher of the "Harry Potter" series. But the story of the boy wizard is only one of the many fun, fresh, yet value-laden children's books that the company publishes.

Beloved classics like "Clifford the Big Red Dog," accidental superhero "Captain Underpants," and journalist/detective mouse "Geronimo Stilton" share the shelves with positive (read: non-dogmatic) values education series "Help Me Be Good," as well as fact-filled, fun-to-read references like the "New Book of Knowledge" and "I Wonder Why."

Book fairs

To help make reading a habit among school children, the company launched Scholastic Book Fairs in 2002. The Book Fairs are week-long thematic programs done in various schools around the country, and include activities such as storytelling, essay-writing, crafts making, and many others.

The children can also browse through the mobile store and write a "wish list" of the books they want their parents to buy for them.

"Some of them even save up their own allowances and buy their own books," says Belen.

On top of it all, the classes that purchase the most books receive a free classroom library.

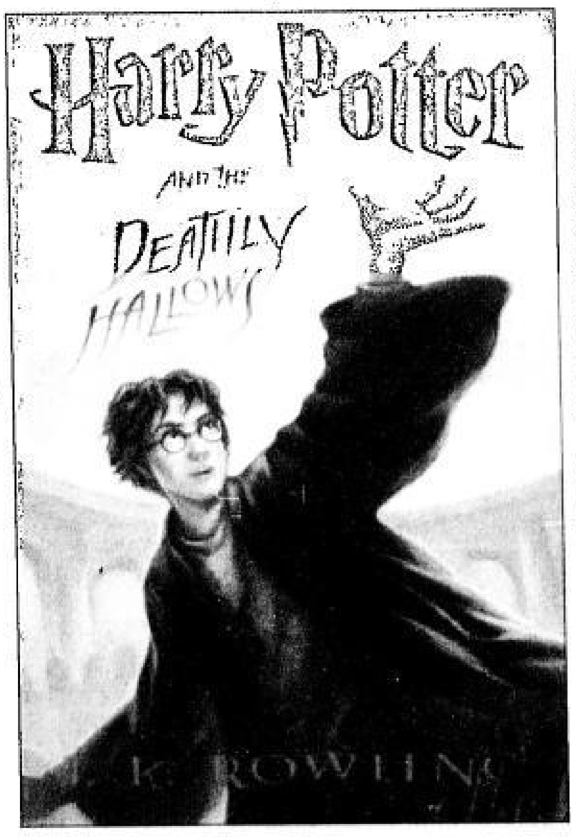
At first, the schools were wary of the program. "We were being compared to the other companies who are just selling books. [But] we were not just selling; we had programs and week-long activities so that the kids would really get into their reading." Nowadays, the Book Fairs have become so popular among schools, parents and children. "We have probably covered more than a thousand schools nationwide."

With TV, videogames, the Internet, and a hundred other tempting distractions, it's no surprise that very few people—children and adults—read books regularly.

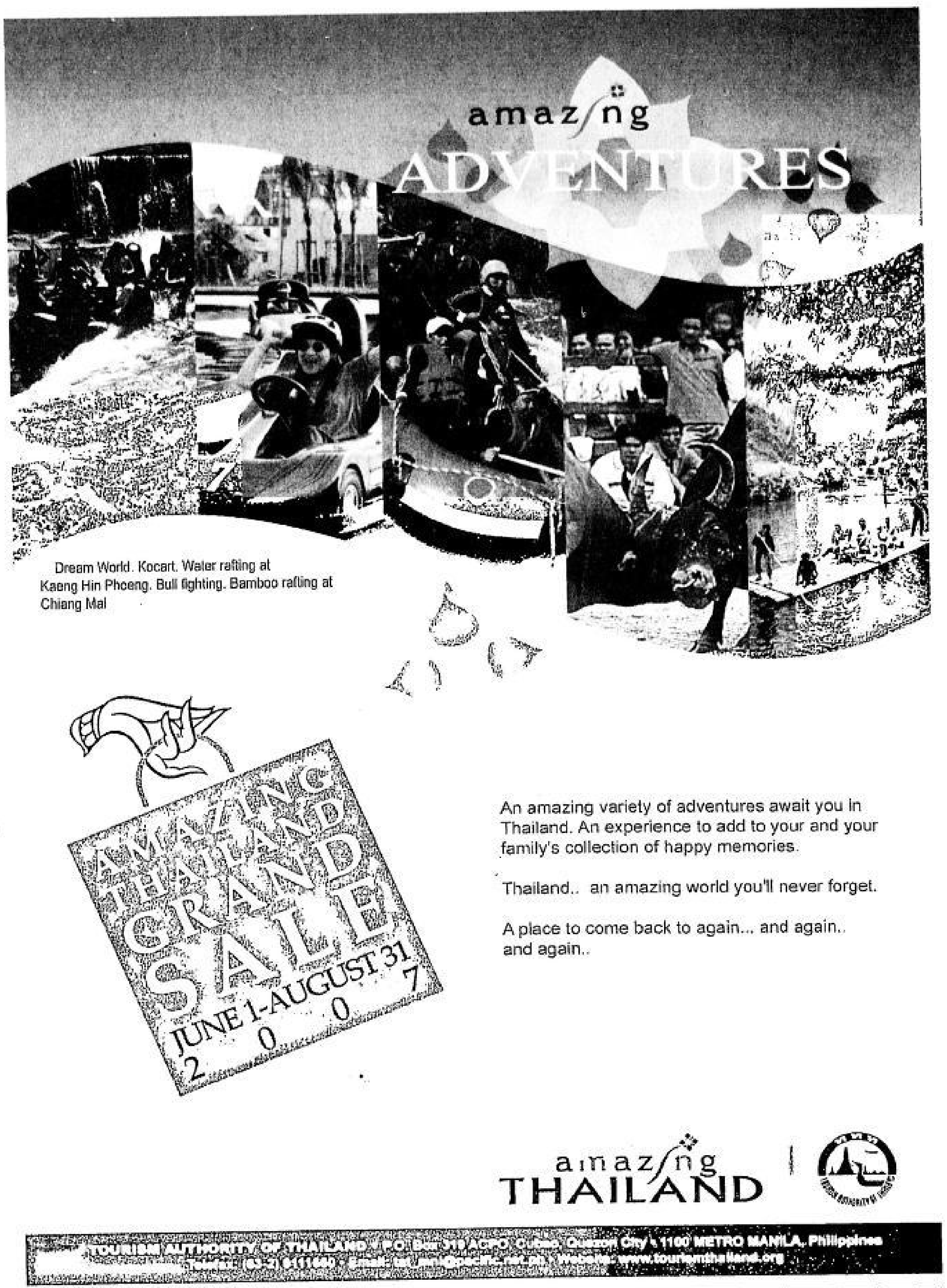
"People read less now, because of all the media options available, and also because people are busy, even the parents," Belen says. "Theoretically everybody thinks reading is important, but in practice they really don't do it. Reading [is about] frequency. The more you read, the more you comprehend, the better you become. You can't just read now and then read your next book next year."

Although it's never too late to start reading, Ms. Belen insists that a child's love for books should be cultivated as early as possible. "A child's mind develops at such a fast pace at a younger age, until about seven or eight years old. When you give them books at that time, they will consider books as their friends, not as their enemies. In fact, the psychology is, if you give a young child a toy together with a book, the child will see no difference between the toy and the book. Both are colorful and fun to him."

'Harry Potter' publisher Scholastic Books, now in the Philippines, aims to cultivate among kids the fading reading habit



PRE-ORDER your Harry Potter 7 book at any National Book Store branch nationwide before July 14 to avail of a 10-percent discount. Laking National card holders will get an additional P65 book coupon.



Dream World. Kocart. Water rafting at Kaeng Hin Phoeng. Bull fighting. Bamboo rafting at Chiang Mai

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Thailand.. an amazing world you'll never forget.

A place to come back to again... and again.. and again..

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PowerShot A560
- 7.1 megapixels
- 4x optical zoom
- Multiple Face Detection
- ISO 1600

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- 7.1 megapixels
- 4x optical zoom

PowerShot A460
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- 4x optical zoom
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All about heartbreaks

MILFLORES PUBLISHING Inc. has recently released "Sawi: Funny Essays, Stories and Poems on All Kinds of Heartbreaks" edited by Ada J. Loredo, BJ A. Patiño and Rica Bolipata-Santos.

"Sawi" is an anthology of short pieces in different genres by 47 top writers. The contributors are mostly young and many of them have won major writing awards.

The essays, stories and poems in the anthology are united by the premise that while heartbreaks, especially of the romantic kind, are inevitable in life, imagination, however, can convert them into the fascinating stuff of light-hearted, even uproariously hilarious, literature. They are bilingual (English and Filipino) and all of them are remarkably imaginative—from a story told by a male dog hopelessly in love with its female master, to a poem that prescribes curing a broken heart by following the instructions for deleting the "Love Bug" computer virus, to a mock lesson on how to write interesting fiction about someone who ate your heart for breakfast, to flash fiction that captures a relationship that is breaking up through a solitary scene where the woman is driving the car and the resentful man is not.

"Sawi" is certain to soothe the aching hearts of thwarted lovers; to alter the minds of the heartbroken to the extent where they will be able to smile, even laugh; to rekindle the passions of youth and evoke mellow memories among older readers; and to satisfy the craving of all lovers of good literature.

The edgy cover design and illustrations of "Sawi" are by Bernie Sim of electrolychee.com and the book design is by Zenaida N. Ebalan.

"Sawi" is available at all National Book Store, PowerBooks, Books for Less outlets and other major book stores at P290 per copy.

Call 7216431 or e-mail milflores@pldtdsl.net.

Philippine British Society elects new officers and induction set

FRANK A. Evaristo

FRANK A. EVARISTO, CIVIC leader and president of the Alay-Lakad Foundation, was elected president of the Philippine British Society with Robert Hecks as vice president.

Also elected to the board of trustees were Emmanuel Santos, secretary; Andrew Malpass, treasurer; Bing Carrion Buck, director, Public Relations; Victoria Montila, Lyn Liboro, Howard Belton, Cora Espiritu, Peter Butler and immediate past president David Reynolds, directors.

British Ambassador Peter Beckingham will induct the new PBS officers tomorrow at the ambassador's residence in Forbes Park, Makati. Former Philippine ambassadors to Britain will also be honored at the same occasion.

SMART celebrates Migrant Workers Month in Kuwait with SMART Pinoy OFWs

Thousands of OFWs were treated to a sizzling evening of laughter and entertainment when the Smart Pinoy Goes to the Middle East Tour hit Kuwait last June 15. It was all a part of Smart's commemoration of Migrant Workers Month.

The beachfront of the Shiik Hotel in Salmiya, Kuwait, was packed with Pinoys hungering for a taste of home, and they weren't disappointed, as a star-studded line-up of Pinoy celebrities put on an unforgettable four-hour show.

Arnel Ignacio loosened up the crowd with a healthy dose of Pinoy humor while simultaneously dishing out appliance showcases and cash prizes in the raffle.

Nyoy Volante took everyone's breath away.

Rica Peralejo dazzled the crowd.

Rica and Regine pumped up the fans.

Bayani Agbayani wowed the audience with his antics.

Arnel Ignacio made everyone laugh.

Regine Velasquez showed why she is Asia's Songbird.

Everybody fell in love with the OPM hits.

The stars thanked the OFWs for a wonderful evening.

The temperature surged when Rica Peralejo strutted around the stage while belting OPM favorites. This was followed by more laughs courtesy of Bayani Agbayani, who had the crowd swinging to the Ocho-ocho beat.

And then it was time to get a little sentimental when acoustic crooner Nyoy Volante grabbed the spotlight. His original compositions and covers of love songs melted the hearts of everyone in attendance.

But all these were just a prelude for the main event: songbird Regine Velasquez. The crowd was enraptured by Velasquez's stunning set of popular tunes.

The Smart Pinoy Goes to the Middle East Tour has visited Bahrain, Qatar, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and now Kuwait. And with every show, the buzz around the OFW community seems to get bigger and bigger.

Arnel Ignacio showered the audience with prizes.

Jojo Fermin had some [illegible] words for the OFWs.

Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Ricardo [illegible]

This tour is Smart's way of thanking the millions of OFWs who help fulfill the dreams of so many Filipino families.

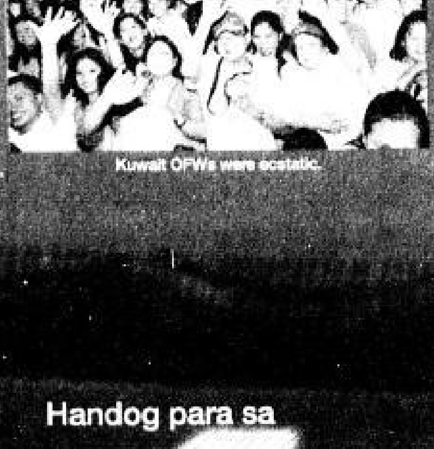
"Smart firmly believes that it is the family that fuels the drive of every Pinoy overseas," says Mr. Danilo "Bong" Mojica, Head of Wireless Consumer Division.

"It is for this reason that Smart Pinoy offers products and services that bring Filipinos closer to home, wherever they are in the world," he adds.

Department of Labor Representative Mr. Guido Recio and Philippine Labor Attache to Kuwait Mr. Leopoldo de Jesus were happy with the show's success.

As the premier Philippine mobile company, Smart Communications offers the most reliable services for OFWs such as IDD, International Text, International MMS and International 3G Video Calling. Smart also gives OFWs the fastest way of remitting money through Smart Padala. Smart Communications ensures that everyone has access to these secure and affordable communication solutions by going to where OFWs are, listening to what they need and responding quickly.

Whether it's providing IDD and International Text services or staging a concert show to remember, one thing is certain: Smart always has the needs of our OFWs in mind.



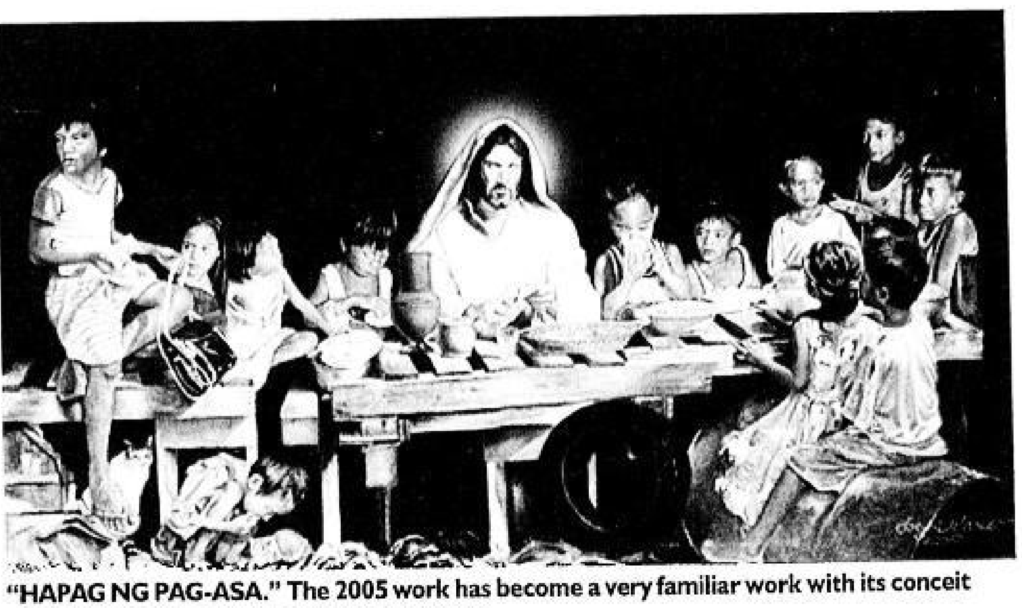
Kuwait OFWs were ecstatic.

Handog para sa
SMART PINOY
Pamilya'y pinagtitibay, sa pagganda ng buhay.

In participation with
WOW!
the best-selling magic sing

DAHIL SMART TAYO

Contemporary mural of Christ engages the eye and heart



"HAPAG NG PAG-ASA." The 2005 work has become a very familiar work with its conceit of Christ breaking bread with streetchildren.

A contemporary recasting of the 'Last Supper' situates Christ among street urchins and farmers, using real people as models. In an uncanny turn of events, the farmer-models have been killed in an agrarian bloodbath in Negros

By Lito B. Zulueta

PROBABLY THE most popular Filipino artwork in the last several years has come from neither the tony gallery row nor private or public collections. It is not even one painted by an academically trained artist. It is a work that hardly screams art. It is a work—please pardon the cliché—of the heart.

The work is "Hapag ng Pag-asa," by businessman-artist Joey A. Velasco. At 4x8 feet, the work is big in scale as well as heart. A recasting of the "Last Supper," it shows Christ sharing a meal with hungry street urchins.

The Christ figure is reverently but anachronistically portrayed as the traditional hooded figure with Middle-Eastern features—he is the biblical Christ come to Manila to break bread with young castaways.

Perhaps because of Christ's biblical air, some of the children stare at him, mesmerized. The others are deep into their food. Meanwhile, two kids look distractedly outside of the canvas, as if beckoned and lured by the jungle of the streets that is their beat and domain.

The viewer wonders, in fact, whether the supper would be the children's last not only with Christ, but also with the charity of humanity because as the ubiquity of street children in urban areas shows, there's hardly enough charity around to shelter, clothe and feed them.

But of course for Velasco, a former Salesian seminarian and now a family man of four children, the work signifies hope, as the title suggests. These children will be fed and taken care of—by the charity of the viewers who are moved by the painting.

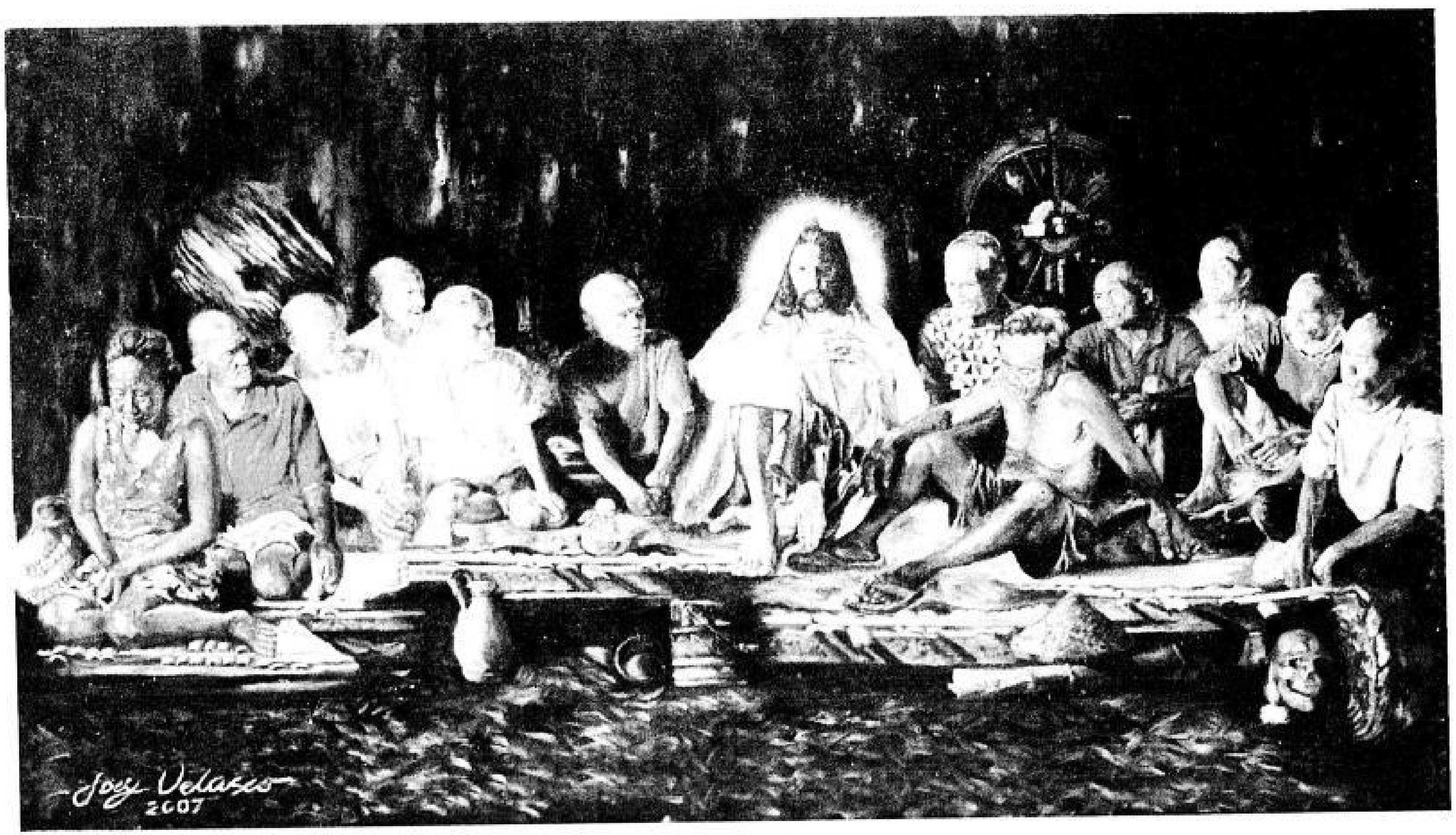
And, indeed, the mural is moving.

It has made the rounds not only of the gallery circuit but also of schools, churches and seminaries where it never fails to attract a crowd for its striking reinvention of the "Last Supper." Perhaps because it caters more to the popular crowd out of the gallery circuit, it has earned popular acclaim, so much so that Velasco has become some sort of a folk artist, a label that he would deny.

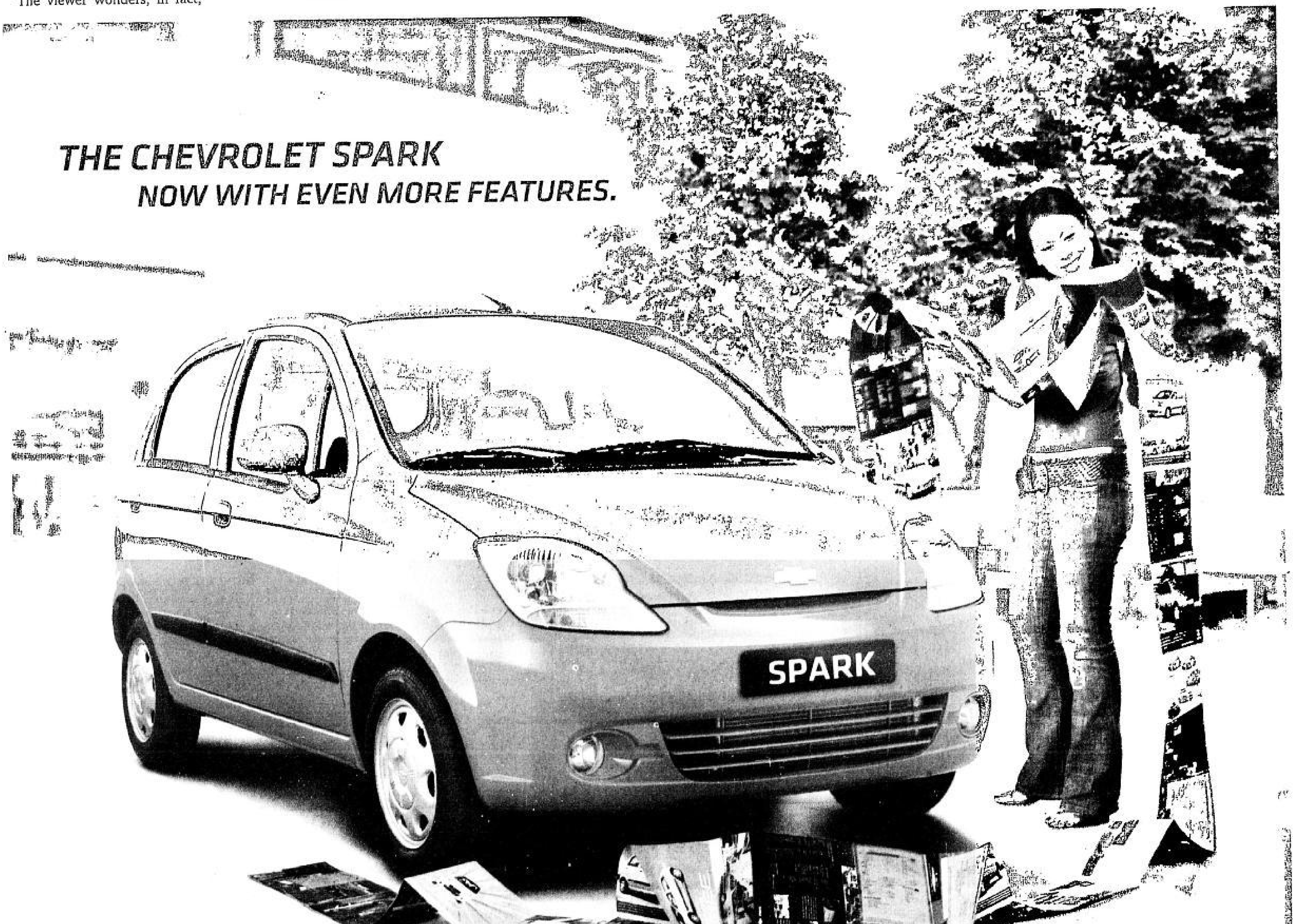
"I am not an artist," he said, "but a 'heartist.'"

From an art connoisseur's point of view, the work reeks of triteness. It contains none of the ratiocinative tricks of conceptual art or the ideological criticism of social realism. It has none of the bohemian narcissism that characterizes today's art schools and

CONTEMPORARY/ E3



"KALAKBAY," the newest work by Joey Velasco puts Christ in the midst of farmers and in the center of the agrarian problem.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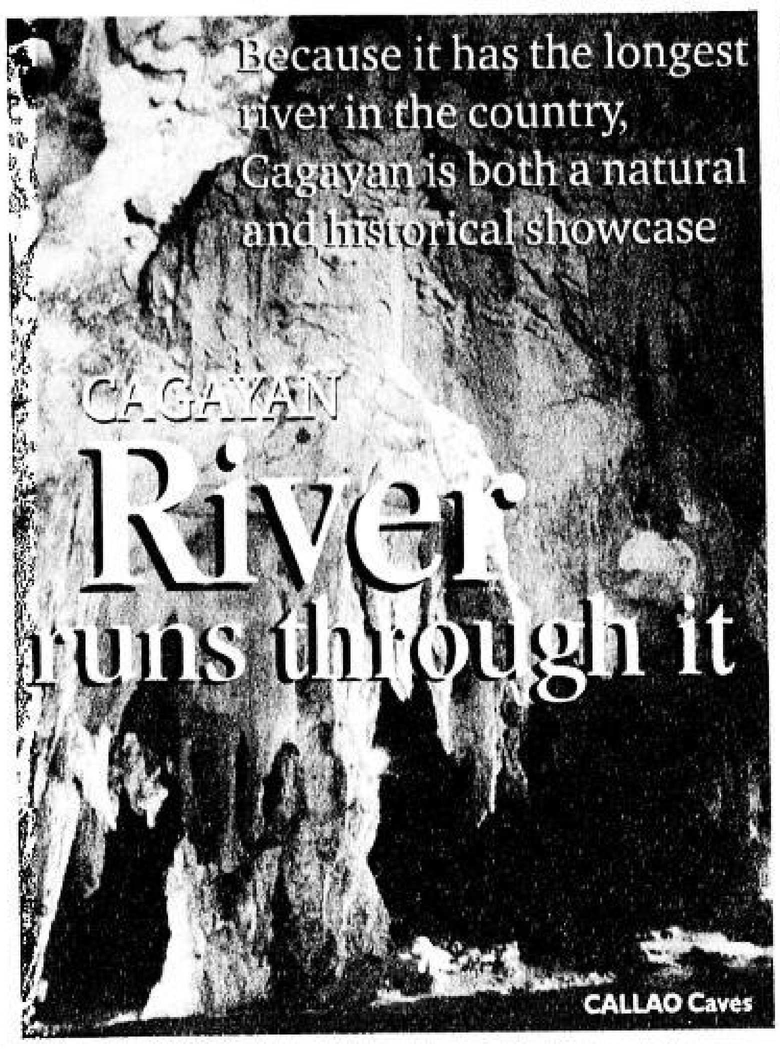


Because it has the longest river in the country, Cagayan is both a natural and historical showcase

CAGAYAN River runs through it

CALLAO Caves

OUR Lady of Piat (background)

Text and photos by Dexter R. Matilla

CITIES WITH RIVERS ARE CONSIDERED blessed. When the Spaniards came to Lal-lo in Cagayan in 1582 via its rivers, they did three things: establish Christianity, rename La-lo into Ciudad de Nueva Segovia (with University of Santo Tomas founder Miguel de Benavides as its first bishop), and consequently make the new city the fourth to be founded in the Philippines after Cebu (1565), Manila (1571), and Naga (1575).

It was also in Lal-lo where the historically rich image of Our Lady of Piat was brought. Commissioned by the Dominicans, the papier-mache image depicts a brown-skinned Madonna that is believed to be miraculous. Crafted in Macau, Our Lady of Piat is assumed to have been inspired by Mexico's Virgin of Guadalupe.

According to documents at the museum of the basilica, legend has it that the image used to have fair skin, but "through the years, as the Madonna became mother of the Cagayanos, she 'adapted' (to) the brown complexion of her people."

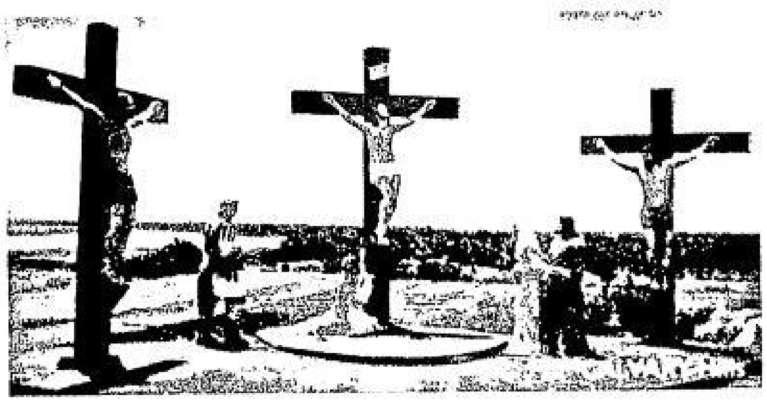
While Cagayan may be easily known for its tourist attractions such as the Callao Caves, the Cagayan River, and of course, the oft-visited Our Lady of Piat shrine, it will also be known now as the venue of the closing ceremonies for this year's National Heritage Month.

"It is indeed a great honor of Cagayan North to be the venue of the closing ceremonies of the National Heritage Month celebration," said Jozaida Lara, wife of Cagayan Gov. Edgar Ramones Lara, during the opening program at the second chamber of the Callao Caves. "The sooner we understand what our heritage is all about, the easier it is for our children to embrace our heritage."

A contingent from Manila that included festival director Bambi Harper, Filipino Heritage Festival, Inc. president Armita Rufino, National Commission for Culture and Arts commissioner Trixie Angeles, and Carina Lebron, along with journalists from major metropolitan dailies were flown via Air Philippines to Tuguegarao to officiate the festivities.

The closing festivities were ushered in by a photo exhibit, "Colors of Cagayan North," by Donald Tapan and Nikkorlai Tapan (the photographer's daughter), and the "Zininaga—Treasures of Cagayan North Heritage Exhibit."

ST. DOMINIC Church

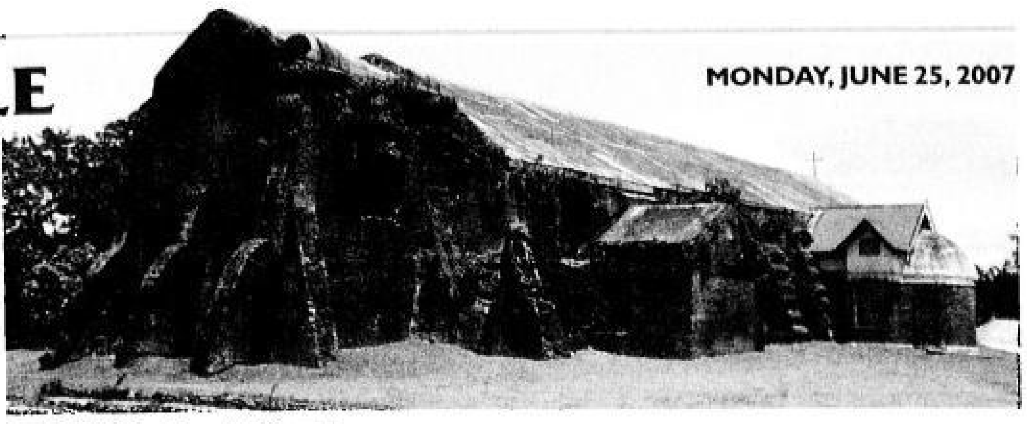


NASSIPING Church ruins

Heritage tour

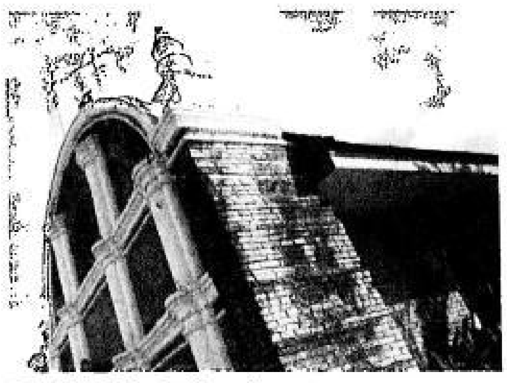
The following day a heritage tour was made of Cagayan. First stop was the San Jacinto Church. First built by intrepid Dominican friars in 1604, the church was reconstructed by Fr. Bernabe dela Magdalena. It was the first structure in Cagayan to be made of bricks and mortar.

Next stop was the St. Philomene Church in Alcala, which was completed in 1881 by Fr. Casimiro Gonzales, O.P. Measuring 67 meters long, 24 meters wide, and 12.5 meters high, it is the biggest and widest brick church in the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao.



ST. JAMES the Apostle Church

ST. PHILOMENE Church



SAN JACINTO Church

The Nassiping Church ruins (Saint Michael the Archangel Church) in Gattaran is unique in that it is the only one that faces both the Cagayan and Chico Rivers. During the Spanish era, Nassiping was one of the big towns of the Valley and was of the highest importance because the chief means of transportation at the time was through the rivers.

In Camalaniugan, the oldest bell in Southeast Asia can be found. The Sancta Maria, housed at the San Jacinto de Polonia Church, was forged in 1595, a year before the Dominicans accepted the city's ecclesiastical administration. There is no record of how the bell got to the town and who brought it there, but there are records indicating that the bell was transported to Manila in February 1937 for the 33rd International Eucharistic Congress.

Spanish urn

Also in Camalaniugan is the 17th century Spanish horno used for manufacturing red bricks. During those times, men aged 18-40 were required to work on forced labor for 40 days in service of the Church and state. Work included hauling rocks, planting and harvesting sugar cane for the molasses used as binder for the bricks, and gathering and cutting firewood for the kiln.

Another use of the horno was as a watchtower to look out for invaders attempting to come in through the Cagayan River in which case, bells would be rung to warn the townsfolk.

A few minutes away is the aforementioned town of Lal-lo. This is where the church of St. Dominic (Church of Bagumbayan during the Spanish times), founded by Fr. Diego de Soria and Tomas Castellar in 1594 and the century-old Evangelization Cross is located.

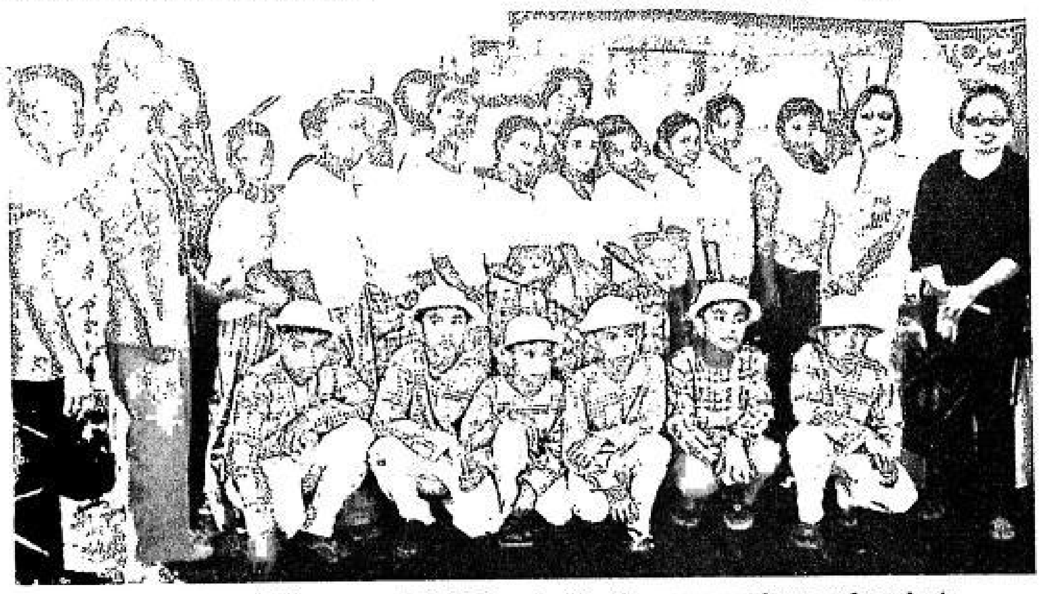
ST. PETER and Paul Metropolitan Cathedral

The former Ciudad de Nueva Segovia also owns the famous Magapit Suspension Bridge, the first in the Philippines and in Asia.

The town of Iguig offers more than just another well-maintained brick church. Aside from the St. James the Apostle Church, one of the very few left in the country that has flying buttresses, Iguig also has the Calvary Hills, an 11-hectare rolling hillside that has larger-than-life concrete 14 Stations of the Cross, which were completed in 1982.

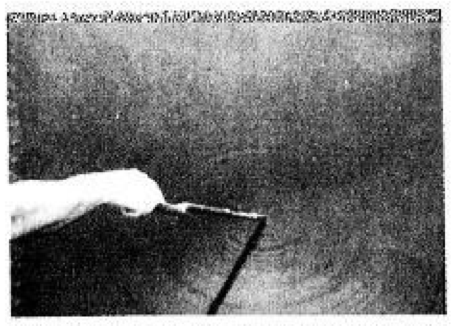
Across the centuries and up to this day, Cagayan is indeed blessed by both nature and history. It may be because a river—the longest and largest in the Philippines—runs through it.

E-mail the author at dxmatilla@yahoo.com



CARINA Lebron, Bambi Harper, and Trixie Angeles join the young performers from Iguig.

VISUAL ARTS



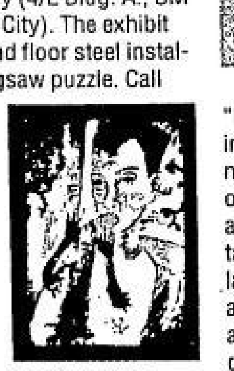
"ILISTA Mo na lang sa Tubig," by Jet Pascua

Pascua and Zamuco at West

Jet Pascua and Eric Zamuco present "Karga," a homecoming exhibit featuring videos and installations. The US-based Zamuco and the Norway-based Pascua explore the idea of displacement. The exhibit runs until July 21 at West Gallery, West Avenue, QC. Call 4110336, 4119221 and 3721194.

Yuson at Megamall

Reg Yuson presents "Contained Spaces," until July 3 at West Gallery (4/L Bldg. A., SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City). The exhibit features wall-mounted and floor steel installations interpreting the jigsaw puzzle. Call 6341284.



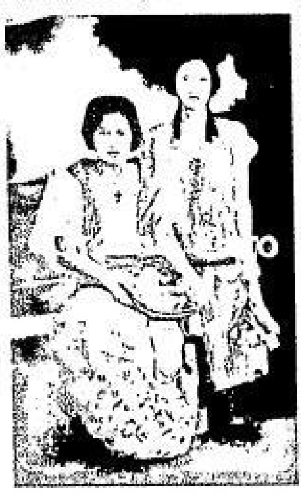
"IKATLONG Mata/3rd Eye," by Jesus Genotiva

Genotiva at GSIS Museum

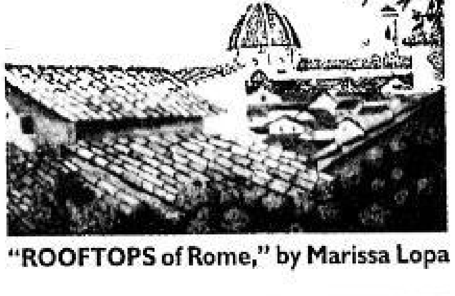
Jesus Genotiva's exhibit, "Balintataw," uses the "eye" as a medium of the soul. Balintataw means "pupil of the eye" in Filipino. Genotiva hopes to unlock the hero in every Filipino, of "every human person suffering from corruption." The exhibit runs until June 30 at the GSIS Museum of Art, Financial Center, Pasay City.

Tuazon at SM Art Center

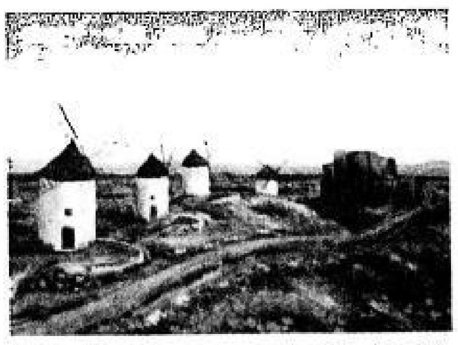
On view at the SM Art Center (SM Megamall, 4/F Bldg. A) is Wire Tuazon's "Reality Sandwiches." Organized by Finale Art File and curated by Roberto Chabet, the exhibit presents a suite of paintings depicting familiar, contemporary images disrupted by a line of text that points towards and away from meaning. "The show delves on the paradox of control, popular memory, loss and immortality," says the artist.



"I'm particularly interested on the power of images and manufactured reality. I'm fascinated with images that hold sacred truths on the diverse meanings and aspects of life and death." When taken as ironic commentary on the ever-expanding visual vocabulary that invades the modern man and woman and their systems of interrelations, "Reality Sandwiches" exposes our clichéd understanding of the world, our avidity to immortalize even the smallest human pursuits, and our deadly reliance on language as a singular guidepost to significance. Unnerving, self-reflexive, resonant, "Reality Sandwiches" offers a new take on what we call real, coaxing us to look deeper into the void and intersection of things. The show runs until June 24. Call 813-2310 or visit www.finaleartfile.com.



"ROOFTOPS of Rome," by Marissa Lopa



"WINDMILLS of La Mancha," by Mariel Lopa

Lopas at Mezze

Mother and daughter Marissa and Mariel de Leon-Lopa will hold a joint exhibit "Random Art," June 26-July 26 at the Mezze! Restaurant, Greenbelt 2, Makati City. The exhibit will feature artworks done in oil; paintings of landscape and seascape of Boracay, Negros and distant places in the South; and still life, town scenes and favorite landmarks in Vancouver, Canada and other European countries.

Chicago outdoor exhibit

"Niki in the Garden," an exhibit of 30 outdoor sculptures by Niki de Saint Phalle, is on display at the Garfield Park Conservatory (300 N. Central Park Ave., Chicago, USA) until Oct. 31 as part of the citywide celebration "Art of Play: Summer in Chicago 2007." Saint Phalle's massive artworks include fiberglass sculptures of animals, mythical figures, totems, and "Nanas"—oversized dancing women celebrating life. Some pieces reach as high as 18 feet high and span 25 feet long. The artist, one of the famous 1960's New Realists, was awarded the 12th Premium Imperial Prize in 2000. Visit www.cityofchicago.org/tourism.
Japanese pottery at Ayala.

Japan ceramic and clay exhibit

The Japanese Foundation, Manila will present the ceramic and clay exhibition, "Japanese Contemporary Pottery: The Rising Generation from Traditional Japanese Kilns." The exhibit features outstanding works by young artists who are continuing the kiln tradition in Japanese places renowned for their distinctive styles. More than 70 pieces will be on view at the Ground Floor Gallery of the Ayala Museum, July 17-Aug 5. Call 8116155-58, e-mail email@jfmo.org.ph or visit www.jfmo.org.ph.

Sena art workshop

Painter-teacher Fernando B. Sena holds an art workshop for eight sessions beginning June 27, 9-11:30 a.m., at the following venues: 22 Guevarra St. corner Zamora St, Brgy. Paltok, San Francisco del Monte, QC (Sundays); J. Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC (Wednesdays); Triumph Building (between Kenny Rogers and Hi-Top Supermarket) Quezon Avenue, QC (Thursdays); Philippine Medical Womens' Association, V. Luna corner Malakas St., QC (Saturdays). Call 3762196.

TAM AUSTRIA'S MADONNA AND CHILD ON CWL COMMEMORATIVE PLATE

To mark its 86th anniversary, the Catholic Women's League of Makati City launched last June 13 at the Manila Polo Club a commemorative plate depicting the Mother and Child as designed by top artist Tam Austria. Photo shows Austria with CWL president Tessie Rodrrigo and CWL officer Tess Castro.

Contemporary mural of Christ engages . . .

From page E1

cliques, particularly those coming from the academe. Above all, it's a religious painting. It dares to inflict Christ on a canvas in an enterprise that is supposed to celebrate artistic freedom beyond the shackles of organized religion and established conventions.

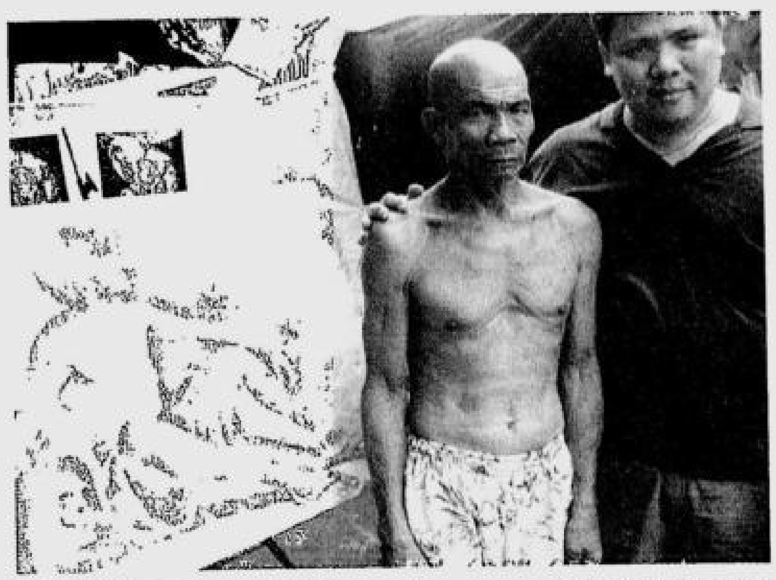
But the work works exactly because it dares to be a fly in the aesthete's ointment. Executed in 2005 when there was so much hullabaloo about Da Vinci's "Last Supper" as a result of "The Da Vinci Code" (the novel and later the movie), "Hapag" defied the prevalent mood of suspicion and scandal at anything remotely connected with Christianity and religion.

At a time when scholars and polemicists raised salacious questions about Christianity, Velasco showed that the message of the "Last Supper" was not whether John the Beloved was really Mary Magdalene in disguise, but that Christ would always go the distance whenever people are in need, be they the Magdalene or the street urchin.

True grit

In transposing the Aramaic biblical figure to contemporary times, the work shows the mordant relevance of Christ in human history and conditions; it shows that Christianity is true grit. And it doesn't do badly in technique either: the work shows the best qualities of the grissaile, a monochromatic technique that allows the figures to stand out amid the mainly dark-gray ambience.

Perhaps more important, the figures come alive. Each of the children is remarkably delineated. It helps that as "heartist" rather than artist, Velasco personally knows each of the children. They were poor children around Manila and Quezon City whom Velasco asked to pose for the mural.



THE ARTIST with one of his models in "Kaakbay," Negros Occidental farmer Alejandro Garcesa, 70. **RIGHT:** The lifeless bodies of Alejandro and Eli Tupaz, 52, who also modeled for the painting, are cradled by their kin after agrarian violence broke out last June 4.

One of them is a girl who belongs to a family squatting at the North Cemetery. One boy is a push-cart scavenger who has a father addicted to drugs. Another boy has been in and out of jail for petty theft.

The stories of his children-models are collected in the book "They Have Jesus: The Stories of the Children of 'Hapag,'" launched last December.

Velasco said the painting and the book are his legacy to his children that will remind them of the values of charity and compassion. In the past, he said he had "failed to show to my children the real situations of life, since we have lived a very comfortable life."

"I hope to hang the 'Hapag ng Pag-Asa' on the wall of my dining room to remind my children to be grateful for what they have to eat, for what they have been served. And mostly, it is to let them remember those who have none," Velasco said.

A PRINT of Velasco's work hangs in one of the farmer's houses in La Castellana, Negros Occidental.

In a foreword to the book, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales urged people to "welcome this portrait as your own and make the dining table serving life not just a table of hope, but a *hapag ng pag-ibig* (table of love)."

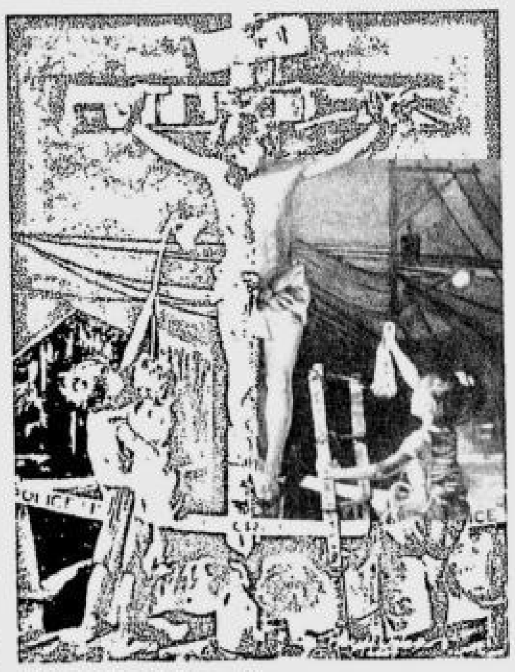
Velasco's art, therefore, is one of utility. According to physician-artist Dan Lerma of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital, Velasco's work follows the spirit of true Catholic art—one that can be used for evangelical and pastoral purposes.

Velasco will be exhibiting his new works in a show that opens today at the UST Beato Angelico Gallery. The centerpiece of the new series is a reworking again of the "Last Supper" but this time putting Christ amid poor farmers.

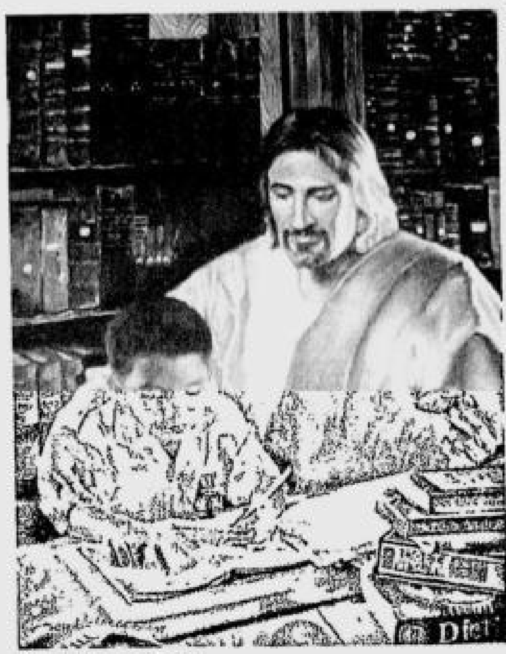
Titled "Kalakbay," the work shows the biblical Christ squatting on hard ground in a pastoral setting as he raises the cup to share wine with peasants.

As in the mural on streetchildren, Velasco also used real farmers in the new work. They were farmers of a disputed hacienda in La Castellana in Negros Occidental, Velasco said.

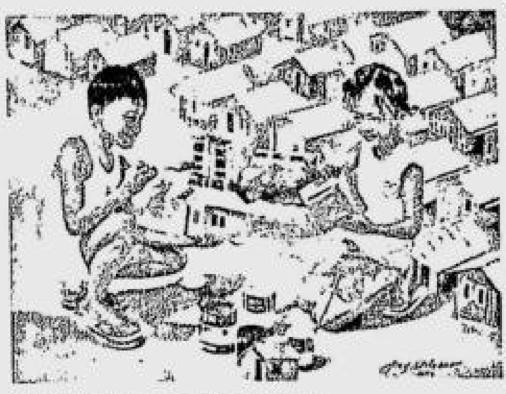
"Last March 22, we were so jubilant as the farmer-beneficiaries of Hacienda Velez Malaga were finally installed in the disputed land," Velasco said. "It was just a mock installation. Only 57 farmers were installed instead of the 102."



"NO GREATER Love"



"LEAD me Lord"



"SMALL Strokes Big Hopes"

But Velasco's joy was short-lived. Early this month, after Velasco had just finished the work in his studio, the military pulled out of the disputed territory, and the farmer-beneficiaries were allegedly attacked by shotgun-wielding security guards of the landowner, Roberto Cuenca. Two of Velasco's models were killed.

When he rushed down south the next day, Velasco said he was speechless at the carnage and the terrible inhumanity. But the farmers were "stoic." "They had great courage," he said.

Because of the incident, "Kaakbay" is expected to assume significant resonance. Was the tragedy prefigured by the figure of Christ raising the cup of sacrifice amid stoic-looking farmers who seemed resigned to their fate?

Perhaps. Questions such as these are bound to be asked when one is confronted with works as those of Velasco's that truly pulses with heart, not self-absorbed art.

"Kalakbay: A Journey of Faith in Art," the new solo exhibit of Joey A. Velasco, will be unveiled tonight at 6, at the Beato Angelico Gallery by UST Rector Magnificus Fr. Ernesto Arceo, OP and UST Fine Arts dean Jaime de los Santos.

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Illustration art as fine art

By Constantino C. Tejero

ARNEL MIRASOL IS A BIT disappointed that local art writers seem to ignore his exhibits of illustrations. The more reason for disappointment that the sentiment comes from someone whom some consider the Philippines' own Maxfield Parrish.

But his is not the only case, as most often such shows are not taken by art critics as seriously as they would an exhibit of abstraction, installations, assemblages or some such esoterica. Which is rather puzzling, considering the painstaking effort, stylistic skill and deep thought that can also go into illustration art.

Consider Mirasol's second solo exhibit "Ptgs & Illus," 21 pieces in acrylic on paper, recently in Crucible Gallery at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

The show comprises eight paintings on the theme of Filipino machismo and 13 illustrations for the book "Long Ago and Far Away," a retelling of 10 Brothers Grimm fairy tales by Fran Ng and Rene Villanueva. All are rendered in Mirasol's trademark sharp-focus realist style, which he learned from the small-brush technique of Parrish and Wyeth.

Although he first thrived on monochrome, in pen-and-ink drawing as a political cartoonist and in black-and-white line drawing as a textbook illustrator, Mirasol also stands out as a colorist. He can blend complementary colors so that the brilliance of each hue doesn't clash with the others' but rather harmonizes, as in the machismo paintings "Seraglio Fantasy" and "Snorkeler Blues."

But even more than his delicate colorism, the viewer appreciates his fine rendering of form. His illustrative skill goes beyond mere visual narrative.

The viewer can immediately see it in the painstaking details of a piece such as "Supremacy of Eve": the grains of the loose soil; the ribbing of the banana leaves, and even how the light falls on the front and the back of each leaf; the yellow overripe bananas on the ground; the tiny yellow and purple flowers of some weeds.

Or look at the paisley print of Rapunzel's gown, and the meticulous braiding of her kilometric hair; the sheen and the folds of the witch's robe; the rough texture of the yellow-ochre wall; the delicate crystal decanter in the niche; even the linear perspective of the chessboard floor that's executed with unnerving exactitude.

Mirasol took up Fine Arts for two years at University of Santo Tomas, shifted to Architecture, then Engineering, and later resumed his art studies in University of the East.

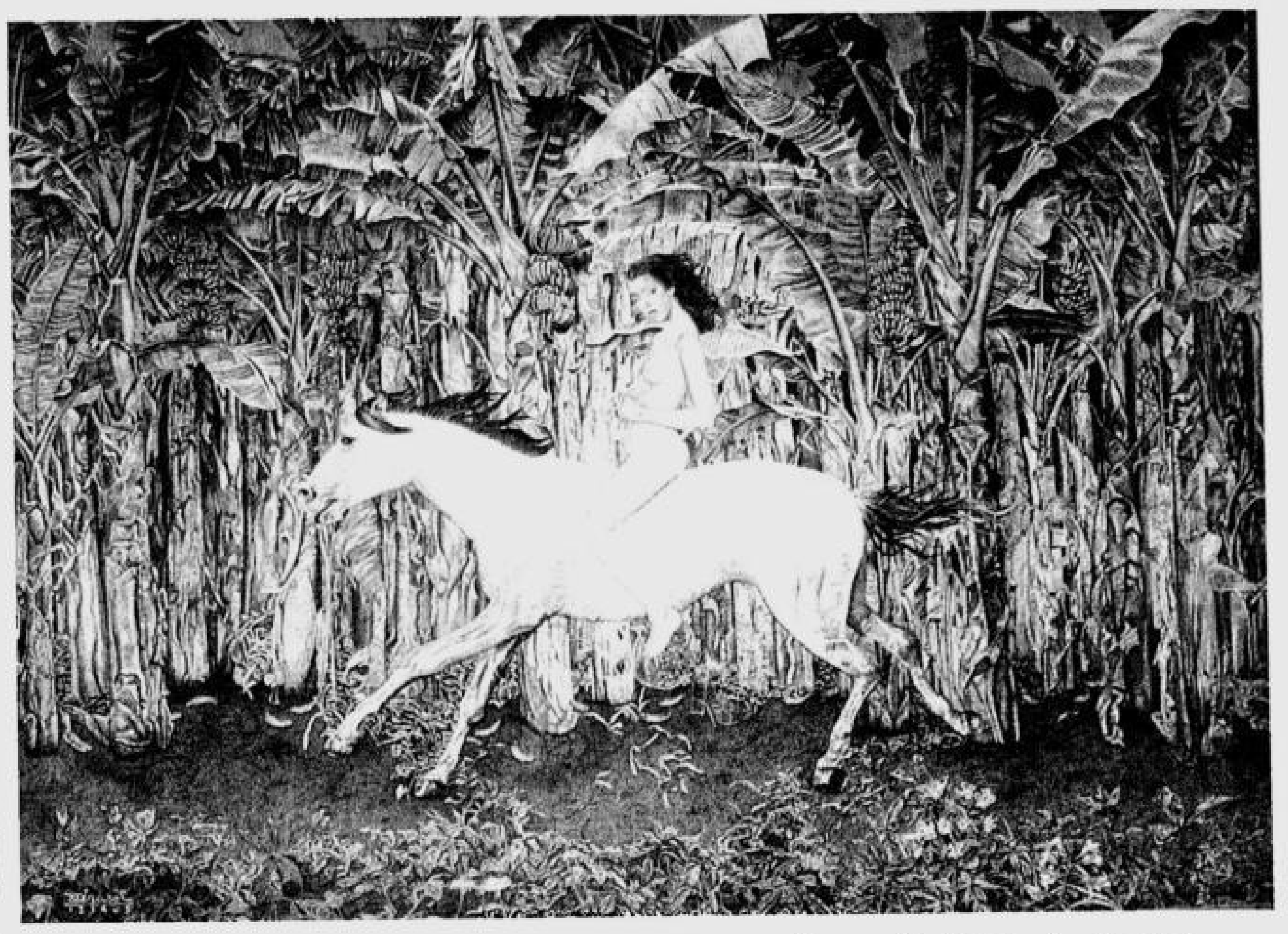
For a time he worked as an editorial cartoonist for a newspaper. Inspired by a book on Dali, he decided to paint full-time, went through a Social Realist phase, and won the top prize in the 1st Metrobank Annual Painting Competition in 1984.

His illustration for "The Origin of the Frog" was a runner-up in the 2000 Unesco-Noma Concours for Picture-Book Illustrations. With "The Brothers Wu and the Good-Luck Eel," he was registered on the 2002 honor list of the International Board on Books for Young People.

Such awards, however, hardly go into his head. Upon seeing the illustrations of Gennady Spirin, Wayne Anderson and James Christensen, he says he had been deeply humbled.

"The truth that the quality of my works are still way below the world's standard became evident to me," he recalls.

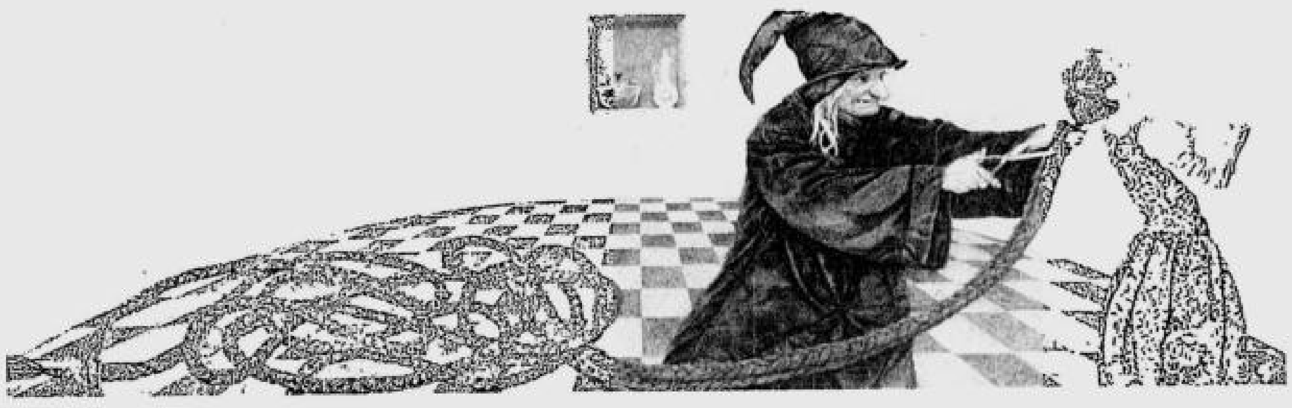
Like most graphic illustrators, Mirasol is one of our virtually unsung artists. This show, however, handily proves that illustration can be as fine an art as any.



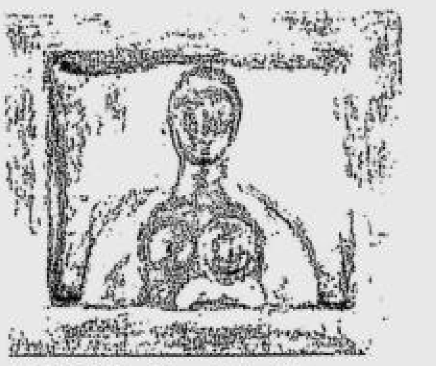
"SUPREMACY of Eve"

THE ARTIST in his studio

"RAPUNZEL"



It is through mythology that I am able to materialize my ideas



"BLACK Goddess I Study"

Images of the sacred

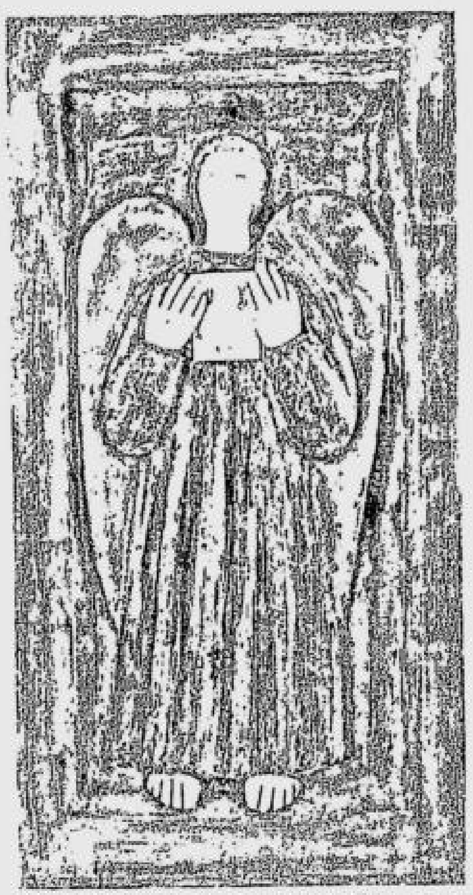
By Duddley Diaz
Contributor

THE "UNKNOWN" AND THE "UNEXPLAINable" have always captivated me. I often ask myself: what is it that is eternal in or beyond human existence? How could I represent it? These are the thoughts that provoked me to create my sculptures.

It is through mythology—its goddesses and gods, or its heroes and victims—that I am able to materialize my ideas, explain and vivify my thoughts. In mythology the relationship between the sacred and the individual is very strong. The strength of this relationship goes beyond the individual's capacity to rationalize and prove its existence. As Joseph Campbell said, "there lies so little difference between a mystic and a madman for both are on the same waters... the only difference is that the first knows how to swim and the latter does not."

In this exhibit, I will be presenting mostly painted or gilded wood sculptures, the "images of the sacred." I like wood as a medium since it elicits a feeling of life and releases its seeming warmth from within. For my bronze sculptures I make the models in wood so that the final texture of the piece resembles the wood model.

I have chosen angels because I am fascinated by the thought of these winged and mysterious creatures interceding between the divine and the individual, the spiritual and human worlds. They have existed long before the Etruscan, Greek, Roman, and Asian civilizations. They have already existed in the very ancient culture of Mesopotamia and were already flying over the fortified walls of Babylon. In the very early years of Christianity in Rome, the "angels" were represented without wings for they reminded the people of the winged goddess of victory! Massimo Cacciari in his book "L'Angelo Necessario" poetically stated that after many centuries when the gods and goddesses of ancient Rome were forgotten, the angel slowly grew its wings back...



"ANGEL with Owl," by Duddley Diaz

The subjects of goddesses have often been depicted in my sculptures. It signifies the spiritual aspect of a "god" being that of a life-giver, being the provider of nourishment. It is my way of seeing the positive side of life. Looking forward to the future, hoping. Life goes on even if we are surrounded by wars and death.

Duddley Diaz's exhibit of sculptures, "Images of the Sacred," is showing at the Galleria Duemila (210 Loring St., Pasay City) until July 1. Call 8319990.

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They will exhibit affordable works done in woodcuts, intaglios, serigraphs and collagraphs.

The show will open on June 26 at 6 p.m. with columnist and art patroness Ma. Isabel Ongpin as guest of honor.

The German Club Manila is located at the Penthouse of Eurovilla II, 118 V.A. Rufino Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 8173552.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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INSIDE
- Breaking the US-style Pinoy VJ mold /F6
- Rediscovering the 'komiks' wellspring /F3

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Angel 'not a monster'

TV execs say the actress is still a Kapuso, although she didn't accept the coveted lead role in 'Marimar'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ANGEL LOCSIN

INGRATA (INGRATE). *Malaki ang ulo* (swell-headed). Monster."

Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for Entertainment, is reciting a litany of disparaging adjectives being hurled against star Angel Locsin.

The young actress was deluged with negative publicity after she reportedly made "inaccurate pronouncements" to the media, during the press conference of "Angels," the movie she co-produced and top-bills.

It was reported that she had turned down the lead role in the forthcoming Kapuso remake of "Marimar."

"It wasn't officially offered to her," Galvante explains. "Of course, she was considered, but when we learned of her plans to take it easy after 'Asian Treasures' and to study fashion design in London, we decided to look [around]. There were others in the lineup."

According to various reports, over a dozen actresses auditioned for the role—including Karylle, Katrina Halili, Jennylyn Mercado, Sunshine Dizon and Iza Calzado. The role eventually went to Marian Rivera.

Clearing the air

Galvante points out: "We just want to clear the air. Angel didn't turn down the role out of arrogance or spite. When she declined, the network understood. She made this decision with the network's approval. She deserves the break. She has been doing GMA 7 shows nonstop since 'Mulawin' three years ago."

Locsin asked to meet with her, the TV exec recounts.

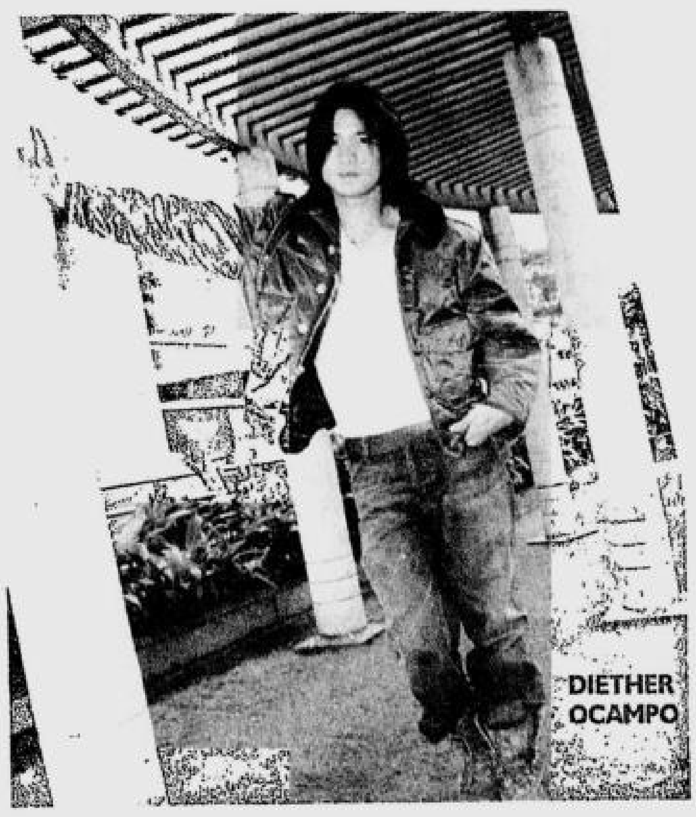
"She was troubled," Galvante recalls. "She cried."

According to a source, Locsin felt unprotected by the network in the face of the mudslinging.

Galvante can't understand why the network is being blamed for the bad press. "*Bakit naman siya ilalaglag ng sarili niyang* network (Why would her own network undermine her)?"

The Kapuso exec also relates that she met with Locsin's father, Angel

ANGEL/ F4


DIETHER OCAMPO

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As the country gears up for the rainy season, actor Diether Ocampo knows he'll be well-protected by this police officer's jacket—a treasured gift from a good friend who works at the San Francisco Sheriff's Department. "It goes well with a simple white shirt and jeans," says Diet, who is not exactly fussy with clothes.

PHOTO BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

No time for mush

It's still career first for Juday and Ryan

By Marinel R. Cruz

JUDY Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo

COOKING IS A STRESS BUSTER for actress Judy Ann Santos. It's not unusual for movie or TV coworkers to see Juday cooking on the set.

"I feel the need to cook when I'm tired. And since my work keeps me away from the kitchen, I just bring my cooking stuff to the set—so I get to cook for everybody, too," Juday told a group of writers in a gathering for her newest soap, "Ysabella."

TAKE FIVE

Juday took up a four-month Basic and Advance Cooking course at the Center for Asian Culinary Studies where she graduated with honors.

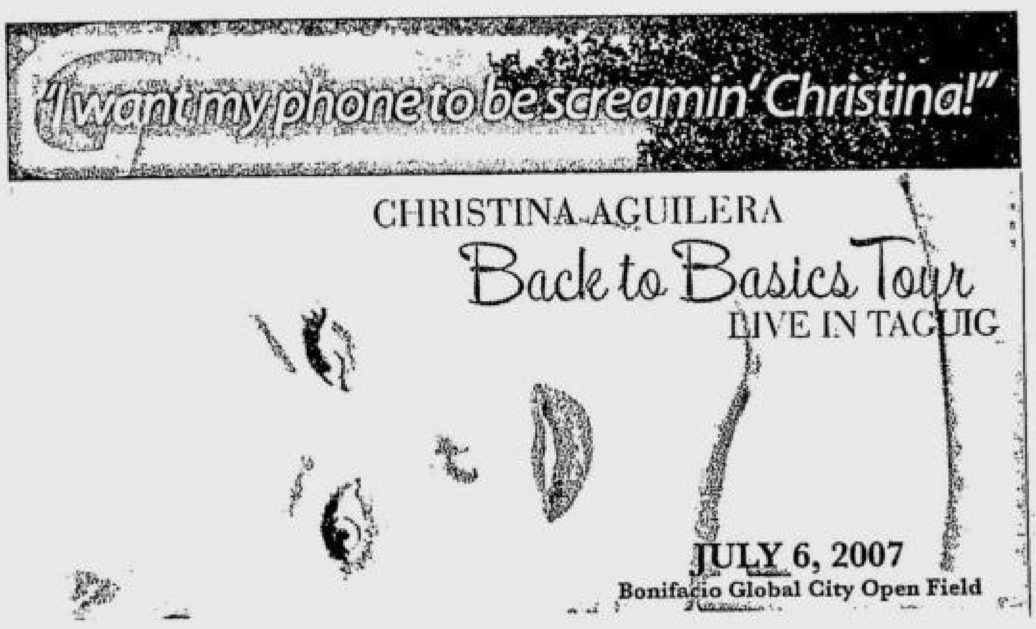
"I plan to continue studying. I just had to work on this show *para may pambayad ako sa tuition*," the actress quipped.

In the new series, Juday gets to cook and act as well: She portrays the role of Ysabella Cuenca, who dreams of being a great chef.

"This series is tailor-made for Juday," said director Rory B. Quintos. "The viewers will also learn a lot about Filipino food."

"Ysabella" is Juday's fourth

NO TIME/ F4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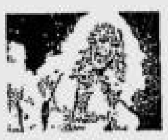
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3	FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER	12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
4	ANGELS	12:20 / 3:00 / 5:40 / 8:20
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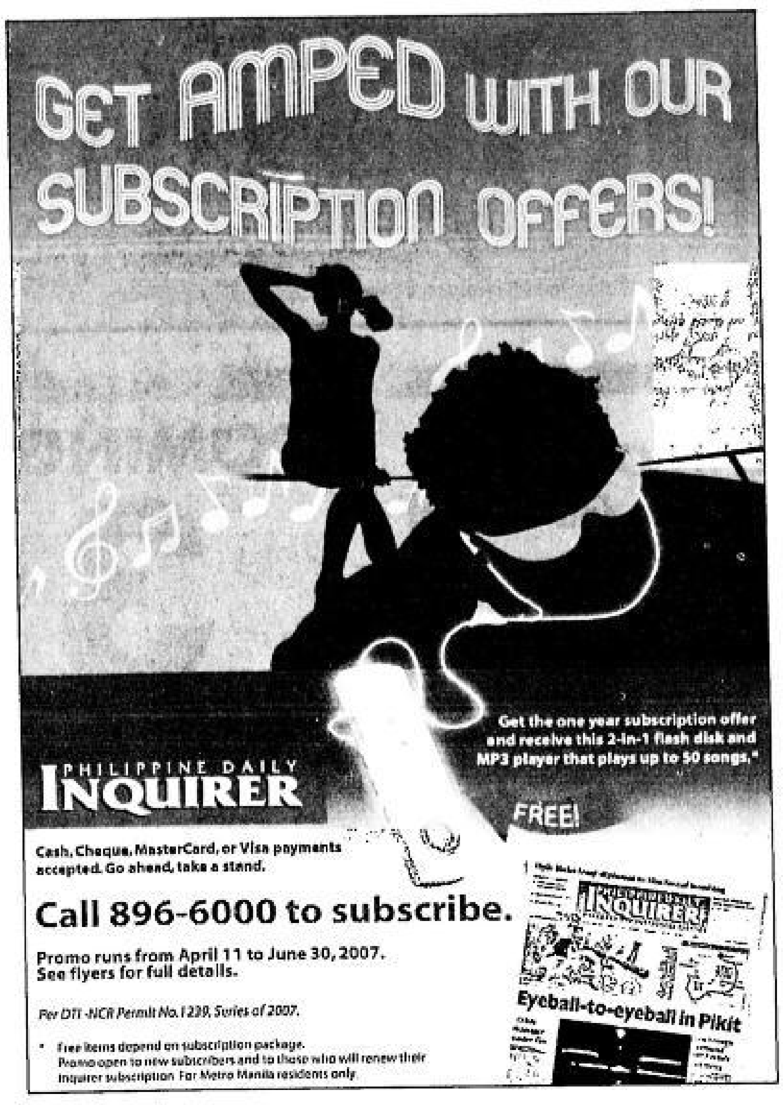
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THE ACTRESS tours the Inca ruins with her Mao bag. AP

Cameron Diaz's fashion blunder

AGUAS CALIENTES, PERU—ACTRESS Cameron Diaz appears to have committed a major fashion crime in Peru.

The actress may have inadvertently offended Peruvians who suffered decades of violence from a Maoist guerrilla insurgency by touring here Friday with a bag emblazoned with one of Mao Zedong's favorite political slogans.

While exploring the Inca city of Machu Picchu high in Peru's Andes, Diaz wore over her shoulder an olive green messenger bag emblazoned with a red star and the words "Serve the People" printed in Chinese on the flap, perhaps Chinese Communist leader Mao's most famous political slogan.

A prominent Peruvian human rights activist said the star of "There's Something About Mary" and, more recently, the voice of a lead character in "Shrek 3," should have been a little more aware of local sensitivities.

"She [shouldn't] should have used that bag where the followers of that ideology" did so much damage. *AP*

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	2	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER
	3	NEXT
	4	ANGELS
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1	NEXT
	2	THE INVISIBLE
	3 THX	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	ANGELS
	5	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END
	6	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER
	7	OCEAN'S 13
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1	NEXT
	2	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	OCEAN'S 13 GUARANTEED SEATS
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	2	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER
	3	NEXT
	4	THE INVISIBLE
	5	OCEAN'S 13
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER
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	3	THE CONDEMNED
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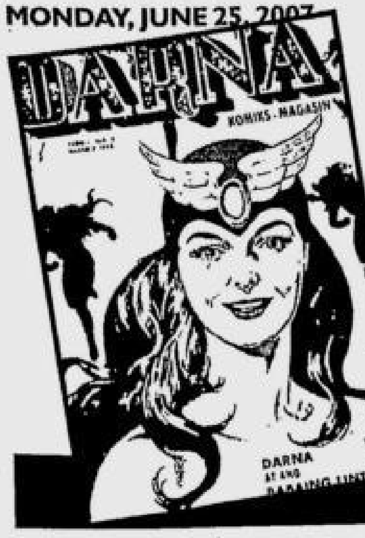
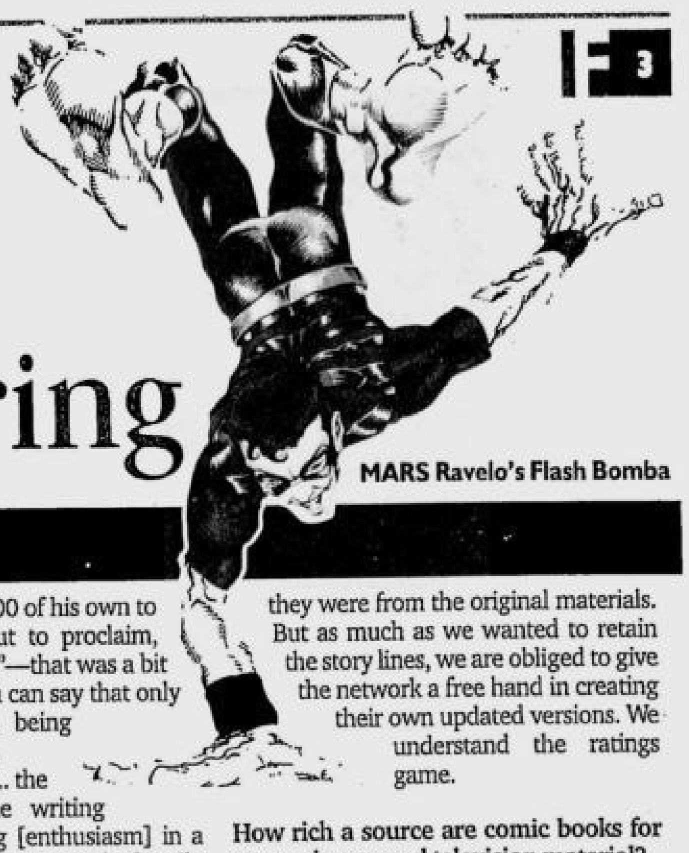

DARNA
KOMIKS-MAGASIN
DARNA AT ANG BABAING LINTA

Rediscovering the 'komiks' wellspring

Escapism, from page to screen and beyond



MARS Ravelo's Flash Bomba

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

FOR DECADES, *KOMIKS* WAS GENerally known as weekly Tagalog anthologies on newsprint, an alternative form of entertainment carried in dozens of differently-themed titles. The medium thrived, enjoying a diverse audience. But now it is slowly vanishing from the newsstands.

These days, small publishers and indie comic book creators release stories and graphic novels on their own, attracting a different set of readers.

The revival of the multi-genre *komiks* medium, supported by the government, was discussed during the first Komiks Congress held in February. This was met with mixed reactions by the *komiks*-creating community.

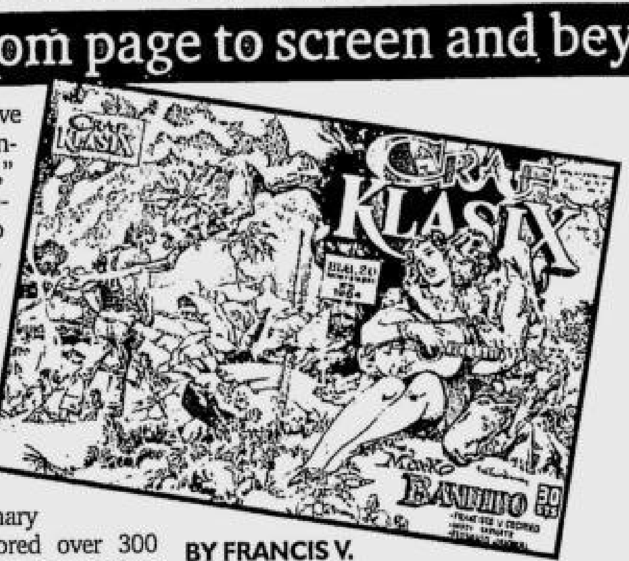
The following month, *komiks* scribe-turned-filmmaker Carlo Caparas launched his "Komiks Caravan" script-writing seminar tour, an endeavor backed by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Caparas and his wife Donna Villa put up prizes amounting to P300,000 for the most promising creators.

Crossing over

Komiks characters have been crossing over to other entertainment venues. TV translations of *komiks* classics "Darna," "Captain Barbell," and "Bakekang" have done well ratings-wise, along with original fantasy shows such as "Mulawin," "Encantadia" and "Atlantika," according to Lilybeth Rasonable, GMA 7's assistant vice president for drama.

"Viewers have come to appreciate high-quality programs," said Rasonable. "Housewives used to be the core audience for soaps. But with fantasy shows, we now have kids and male adults giving the ratings extra push. There are so many classics by creative geniuses like Carlo Caparas and Mars Ravelo that we producers can modernize and offer to the new audiences."

ABS-CBN has similarly tapped into older material—examples are "Kampanerang Kuba," "Pedro Penduko" and "Panday." The long-running "Komiks" has also adapted old stories such as Liwayway magazine's "Agua Bendita."



BY FRANCIS V. Coching

Kylie Manalo, co-executive producer of "Komiks: Adventures of Pedro Penduko," agreed that published stories can be made into watchable programs. "A fantasy show is expensive to produce but ... we enjoy making them," she said.

Filomena "Luming" Coching (widow of Francisco V. Coching, "Dean of Filipino Illustrators"), Regie Ravelo (daughter of late luminary Mars Ravelo, who authored over 300 *komiks* novels), Gerry Alanguilan (online *komiks* museum curator, and creator/self-publisher of "Wasted" and "Elmer") and Carlo Vergara (author-illustrator of the acclaimed "Zsazsa Zaturnnah" graphic novel) recently shared with INQUIRER Entertainment their thoughts on the art form, its cross-media transcendence and recent developments aimed at resuscitating the industry.

What is the significance of the Komiks Congress to readers and creators? Are you optimistic that this will lead to a real revival?
Coching: Yes, I'm optimistic that it will. Before other forms of entertainment, the comic book was a part of many people's lives. The Komiks Congress could accomplish a revival, with the help of the NCCA and Carlo Caparas.

Vergara: While I feel that [it] was very promising for the industry, I wish that specific action points to jump-start the process [had been tackled].

You have to look at it from a business point of view. If a story is entertaining, it will sell. You can put whatever lessons you want to teach in a well-written story that entertains.

What's imperative is to train creators ... We have a lot of talented artists here; it's important to teach them to actually put together a comic book.

Ravelo: Any sincere effort to revive the *komiks* industry is welcome. There are a lot of talented writers and illustrators, old and current. A lot of Carlo Caparas' contemporaries are still alive. These are the people who would be tapped first, the very people who were displaced when the industry took a nosedive.

Alanguilan: I greeted the news of this Komiks Congress with much optimism and enthusiasm. It seemed at the time to be the first serious concerted effort to revive the *komiks* industry. By "komiks," I mean the inexpensive Tagalog comics geared for the masses and distributed nationwide. These ceased to exist with the closure of the *komiks* department of Atlas Publishing in 2005.

I am part of a younger generation of creators who have been self-publishing for 15 years and who have managed to get a new industry going based on new concepts. I strongly feel that if the *komiks* industry were to be revived, our voice [is] important. Sadly, there was little opportunity to get heard [during the congress]. I feel that there was more grandstanding than real work that went on, which was very disappointing.

CRIMEAN HUMAN

BY GERRY Alanguilan

What do you think of Carlo Caparas' efforts?
Alanguilan: Personally, I am very glad that he put up P300,000 of his own to help in the effort. But to proclaim, "*Buhay na ang komiks*"—that was a bit frustrating. I think you can say that only if *komiks* are again being published nationwide.

Still, it's great that ... the Komiks Caravan, the writing seminars, are creating [enthusiasm] in a generation that didn't even see the *komiks* industry at its peak.

Ravelo: Will he be publishing *komiks* soon? We have several excellently written and illustrated *komiks* in the can. If Mr. Caparas is interested ...

Who, to you, is the foremost creator of Filipino *komiks*?
Alanguilan: For me, it's Francisco V. Coching. No offense to Mr. Caparas, who has been given the title Komiks King—and who, in fact, has done much worthwhile and memorable work for the industry and pop culture in general.

Coching: Carlo Caparas has earlier admitted that he's a fan of my husband's.

Since translations of "Darna" and "Zsazsa" to other media are other people's takes, what compromises did you have to deal with?

Vergara: There are bound to be compromises, but as long as the essence doesn't change, then it's good. I had no involvement with the "Zsazsa" play, but it was a direct translation, so 90 percent of the lines were left intact! It's easier for theater, because the suspension of disbelief is absolute.

Ravelo: My family and I are very pleased with the commercial success of the *teleserye* versions of "Darna" and "Captain Barbell." A lot of Mars Ravelo fans complained about how completely different they were from the original materials. But as much as we wanted to retain the story lines, we are obliged to give the network a free hand in creating their own updated versions. We understand the ratings game.

How rich a source are comic books for stage, cinema and television material?
Vergara: It can be a rich source, but only if people are excited to read a material, because that's for the producers to pick it up. With "Zsazsa," it started with people passing it around.
Ravelo: The "Lastikman" series will soon be shown on Channel 2, and negotiations with Channel 7 are underway for "Dyesebel." Even before TV took over as the top entertainment option for many Filipinos, we were a "reading people" because of *komiks*. My father wanted to impart the highest values to the lowest tiers of society, with *komiks* as literature. He lived and died for *komiks*.

Coching: Most of my husband's creations were made into movies by Sampaguita Pictures, Premier Productions and other film companies. He wrote and drew his own stories, so he got sole credit for the properties. During Martial Law, paper became expensive and some things weren't allowed to be in the stories. His "Aagos ang Dugo" was changed to "Sa Ngalan ng Batas." He stopped doing comics in 1973. He felt disappointed, *maaaring tinamad na siya*. He didn't want to work for American companies. Of his 56 novels, 50 became movies that were commercially successful. His "Pedro Penduko" aired as a series on ABS-CBN. The station has asked for synopses of his old novels, hopefully for revival.

Alanguilan: *Komiks* being a source of material for TV and movies only goes to show its importance in our culture. I would like to see new ones like "Zsazsa" translated for TV. My concern is the lack of compensation for the artists involved. It's a collaborative medium, the product of the efforts of both writer and artist. When their work is translated to a different medium, they should be given equal credit, and benefit financially.

Striking gold with 'Eureka'

WITH ITS MIX OF SCI-FI SMARTS and small-town drama, "Eureka" struck ratings gold in many parts of the world.

Lauded by critics, it attracted over five million viewers during its US debut season on the Sci-Fi Chanel, beating even the cult hit, "Battlestar Galactica."

Now "Eureka" is on Star World, Wednesdays, at 8 p.m.

Blending the best elements from "The X-Files" and "Northern Exposure," the series tells of a remote town in Northwest America that is populated by the country's top geniuses. The government keeps this town hidden from the outside world.

CLICK!

Way out

Since the cast has the tough job of making viewers believe the way-out premise, they play a big part in the show's success. Heading the ensemble is Colin Ferguson who plays Jack Carter, a single dad who reluctantly agrees to become the town Eureka's new sheriff.

Ferguson was trained as a stand-up comic. TV junkies might recognize him from his guest gigs on "Becker," "Malcolm in the Middle" and "CSI: Miami," or from his lead role in the US version of "Coupling." On the big screen, he starred opposite Mandy Moore and Diane Keaton in the romantic comedy "Because I Said So."

TV veteran

"Eureka" also stars Debrah Farentino as Beverly Barlow, the town's intelligent and attractive psychotherapist. A veteran star of TV and film, the wife of director Gregory Hoblit ("Primal Fear," "Hart's War") has clocked up over 30 screen credits throughout her 25-year career.

Ferguson and Farentino, discuss the chemistry required to create the hit series ... and also odd childhoods, weird science and... molecular biology.

What was the oddest thing about your own upbringing?
Colin Ferguson: I moved to Hong Kong when I was about 10, back in the '80s when the international banking scene had gone crazy. I also lived in England, Connecticut and a bunch of different places.

Debrah Farentino: I changed my name from "Deborah" to "Debrah" when I was younger. I was on a rooftop in Rome; a friend gave it to me as a gift. I never liked "Debbie"; I tried to change it to Miranda when I was 5.

Do either of you have an interest in science?
CF: I've always loved science. I love documentaries and always like catching up on the new gadgets and stuff. I did have a great education when I was living in Asia [as a child]. I didn't really understand how advanced the teaching was until I got back to North America.

DF: I love it. I'm specifically fascinated by chemistry. My hobby, actually, is molecular biology, specifically ribosomes, which is like processing plants of a cell from the atomic level. I have slowly been continuing my studies between jobs. I am still on a very long road to getting my Bachelors. Actually when the script was sent to me, I was taking a couple of years off to study molecular biology.

So ultimately you'd like to work in a lab?
DF: I'm pursuing this degree because I love to travel to third-world countries. In the '80s

I was in Nicaragua and smuggled in medical supplies. Last summer I took my

children to Vietnam for a volunteer vacation. I made a promise to myself a long time ago that, at some point in my life, I would have the skills to bring medical supplies to these places.

DEBRAH Farentino as Beverly Barlowe

COLIN Ferguson as Jack Carter

What were your thoughts when you were you first offered a sci-fi show?
CF: I did a lot of sitcoms and a lot of movies. I was looking for a long-form show and ["Eureka"] could be funny and dramatic. I got very excited.

DF: I love the sci-fi genre because you get to go beyond what your typical life might be. I like playing housewives but it is just reflecting my regular life. As an actor, when you get into sci-fi you can explore more complex issues and get your reality skewed.

Debrah, you starred in another sci-fi series, "Earth 2," in 1994. Although well received, it was axed after one season. What did you learn from the experience?
DF: "Earth 2" was a great experience. We worked about 90 hours a week for 11 months. I'm still close to a number of the cast members. The costs were a bit out of control and so they couldn't afford to keep it on the air. So what I learnt from that is just how important it is to stay on budget.

Eureka's timing couldn't be better. Do you agree that science is now considered cool?
CF: You look at shows like "Myth Busters" and documentaries like "An Inconvenient Truth" and it's clear that science is now very popular. A lot of the attraction is, people get to sort of learn stuff.

DF: About 20 years ago, we didn't know nearly as much as we know now. It's been exponential what's happening in research. People have the access to just to go online to learn anything about a disease or anything about what's going on in space. Science education is now more available to the average person than ever before.

Top 100 greatest American films

The American Film Institute revisited the top-100 with a new list of the greatest American films of all time. Criteria include: feature-length, critically acclaimed, historic significance, cultural impact, remain popular over time and produced or creatively tied to America.

1	Citizen Kane	1941
2	The Godfather	1972
3	Casablanca	1942
4	Raging Bull	1980
5	Singin' in the Rain	1952
6	Gone With the Wind	1939
7	Lawrence of Arabia	1962
8	Schindler's List	1993
9	Vertigo	1958
10	The Wizard of Oz	1939
11	City Lights	1931
12	The Searchers	1956
13	Star Wars	1977
14	Psycho	1960
15	2001: A Space Odyssey	1968
16	Sunset Boulevard	1950
17	The Graduate	1967
18	The General	1927
19	On the Waterfront	1954
20	It's a Wonderful Life	1946
21	Chinatown	1974
22	Some Like It Hot	1959
23	The Grapes of Wrath	1940
24	E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial	1982
25	To Kill a Mockingbird	1962
26	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington	1939
27	High Noon	1952
28	All About Eve	1950
29	Double Indemnity	1944
30	Apocalypse Now	1979
31	The Maltese Falcon	1941
32	The Godfather Part 2	1974
33	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	1975
34	Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs	1937
35	Annie Hall	1977
36	The Bridge on the River Kwai	1957
37	The Best Years of Our Lives	1946
38	The Treasure of the Sierra Madre	1948
39	Dr. Strangelove	1964
40	The Sound of Music	1965
41	King Kong	1933
42	Bonnie and Clyde	1967
43	Midnight Cowboy	1969
44	The Philadelphia Story	1940
45	Shane	1953
46	It Happened One Night	1934
47	A Streetcar Named Desire	1951
48	Rear Window	1954
49	Intolerance	1916
50	The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring	2001
51	West Side Story	1961
52	Taxi Driver	1976
53	The Deer Hunter	1978
54	M*A*S*H	1970
55	North by Northwest	1959
56	Jaws	1975
57	Rocky	1976
58	The Gold Rush	1925
59	Nashville	1975
60	Duck Soup	1933
61	Sullivan's Travels	1941
62	American Graffiti	1973
63	Cabaret	1972
64	Network	1976
65	The African Queen	1951
66	Raiders of the Lost Ark	1981
67	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	1966
68	Unforgiven	1992
69	Tootsie	1982
70	A Clockwork Orange	1971
71	Saving Private Ryan	1998
72	The Shawshank Redemption	1994
73	Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid	1969
74	The Silence of the Lambs	1991
75	In the Heat of the Night	1967
76	Forrest Gump	1994
77	All the President's Men	1976
78	Modern Times	1936
79	The Wild Bunch	1969
80	The Apartment	1960
81	Spartacus	1960
82	Sunrise	1927
83	Titanic	1997
84	Easy Rider	1969
85	A Night at the Opera	1935
86	Platoon	1986
87	12 Angry Men	1957
88	Bringing Up Baby	1938
89	The Sixth Sense	1999
90	Swing Time	1936
91	Sophie's Choice	1982
92	Goodfellas	1990
93	The French Connection	1971
94	Pulp Fiction	1994
95	The Last Picture Show	1971
96	Do the Right Thing	1989
97	Blade Runner	1982
98	Yankee Doodle Dandy	1942
99	Toy Story	1995
100	Ben-Hur	1959

SOURCE: American Film Institute AP

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3 THE INVISIBLE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 WILDERNESS
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 NEXT
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 ANGELS
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

7 OCEAN'S 13
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

8 indieSine: NUMBALIKDIWA
1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

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4 ANGELS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 NEXT
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 WILDERNESS
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
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3 NEXT
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 THE INVISIBLE
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

5 OCEAN'S 13 12:30 3:15
POC 3 5:50 9:00

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15

7 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:00 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:20

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3 OCEAN'S 13
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5 INVISIBLES
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9 ANGELS
10 SILIP
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

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10 ANGELS
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
12 SILIP

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12 BORDERTOWN

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2 ANGELS
3 ZOMBIES
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7 SILIP
8 OCEAN'S 13

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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 INVISIBLES
4 CONDEMNED
5 ANGELS
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 ANGELS
4 THE SHOOTER

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1 OCEAN'S 13
2 BLACKOUT
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 ANGELS

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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 INVISIBLES
3 ZODIAC/ BLACKOUT
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
5 CONDEMNED
6 ANGELS

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2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 ANGELS

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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
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3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 ANGELS

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 WHISPER
4 ZODIAC

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4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 RESERVED
8 BORDERTOWN

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Angel ‘not a monster’

From page F1

Colmenares, and manager, Becky Aguila.

“Her father, a very reasonable man, explained why his daughter couldn’t sign a contract right away,” says Galvante. “He said it wouldn’t be fair to the network if Angel signed up though she couldn’t work in the next two months.”

INQUIRER Entertainment tried to contact Aguila, but learned she was out of the country. The four/five-year contract in question is Locsin’s co-management deal with GMA Artist Center.

According to Ida Henares, assistant vice president and head of Artist Center, “even though the contract is finished, we are still doing negotiations and transactions for Angel on behalf of Artist Center.”

No time for mush

From page F1

soap with Quintos. Don Cuaresma co-directs. Ricky Lee is creative manager and Henry Quintarin is head-writer.

How did you feel when the show was presented to you?

I was excited. Finally, a show that would showcase my talent as a chef!

Would you like to have a cooking show of your own?

Yes, definitely. I find locally produced shows boring—no offense to the hosts.

Ryan (Agoncillo, her real-life partner and love interest in the show) and I think we can work on a cooking video first. The proceeds will go to my Touch a Heart Foundation.

Your romance began on the set or “Krystala,” what milestone in your relationship can we expect from this new series?

Whatever important is going to happen, *baka sa katapusan na ng* “Ysabella” *mangyayari.* We are still concentrating on our work. We plan to secure our future before settling down.

Ryan: You know, we agreed not to turn-mushy on the set. *Walang* holding hands *o lambutsingan.* We don’t want other people on the set to feel ill-at-ease.

If your partner were a dish, what would he/she be?

Juday: Ryan is like lobster—expensive, *pero kahit anong rekado and ihalo, masarap pa rin.* Lobster *s’ya, toyo ako. Swak kami!*

Ryan: Juday is like chicken lollipop. *Masarap papakin, mahirap tigilan.*

“Ysabella” premieres tonight on ABS-CBN, after “TV Patrol.” It also stars Gina Pareno, Rosanna Roces, Connie Reyes, Aiza Seguerra, Derek Ramsay and Maricel Laxa.

A colorful gallery of rogues

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"OCEAN'S THIRTEEN" IS A FUN CAPER AND has a lot of heart, too, because Danny Ocean and his gang mates have embarked on their latest complicated scheme to avenge the betrayal of their beloved mentor (**Elliott Gould**) by a vicious hotel-casino lord (**Al Pacino**).

Trouble is, the fun soon gets tedious, as **Steven Soderbergh**'s latest sequel turns out to be long on clever details but short on interesting, revealing plotting.

In fact, the film sometimes feels more like a crime documentary rather than a feature film as the action slows down to give way to detailed schemes that take a long time to set up.

Fast, furiously

Of course, once the elaborate plan is finally put into play, everything happens fast and furiously, and the film revs up to a truly astonishing finale.

How clever Ocean and his avenging brothers in crime are!

The problem isn't with the movie's slam-bang denouement, it's with the minutes and minutes of relatively static "planning" and "planting" scenes that precede it.

Let's hope that most action film buffs are patient enough to sit through these relatively slow and low scenes, in the eager expectation of reaping rich rewards later in the film.

To be sure, the planning scenes aren't slow and low all the time. Now and then, a complication or another kind of problem is thrown in, just to keep everyone on his toes—and moviegoers interested.

Also interesting is the colorful rogue's gallery that Soderbergh trots out—denizens of the casino and crime worlds who will do anything and everything to make a buck—give or take a million.

It's ironic that, in this fetid and gimlet-eyed company, Ocean and his boys come off as veritable knights, on point of contrast, despite their own propensity for breaking the law.

The point here is that they're defending their beleaguered mentor, so they end up as the "good" guys, after all.

George Clooney, **Brad Pitt** and **Matt Damon** are proficient at playing around with this hero-antihero conundrum, and it also helps that Al Pacino is able to turn himself into an arch-villain worthy of their most devious moves and strategies.

And special mention must be made of **Ellen Barkin** as Pacino's all-powerful lieutenant, who combines sexiness and a slithering cunning to beat his enemies at their own game. Barking may already be in her 50s, but she's still hot to trot—in every way.

Too technical

So, all's well with "Ocean's Thirteen"—except its structure, which plays its action low and cool for the most part, until it hits the jackpot in the end. That calculating tone is a calculated move, so let's hope that the gamble pays off in terms of viewers' reactions.

For our part, however, we found it too technical to really grab us where we lived and breathed.

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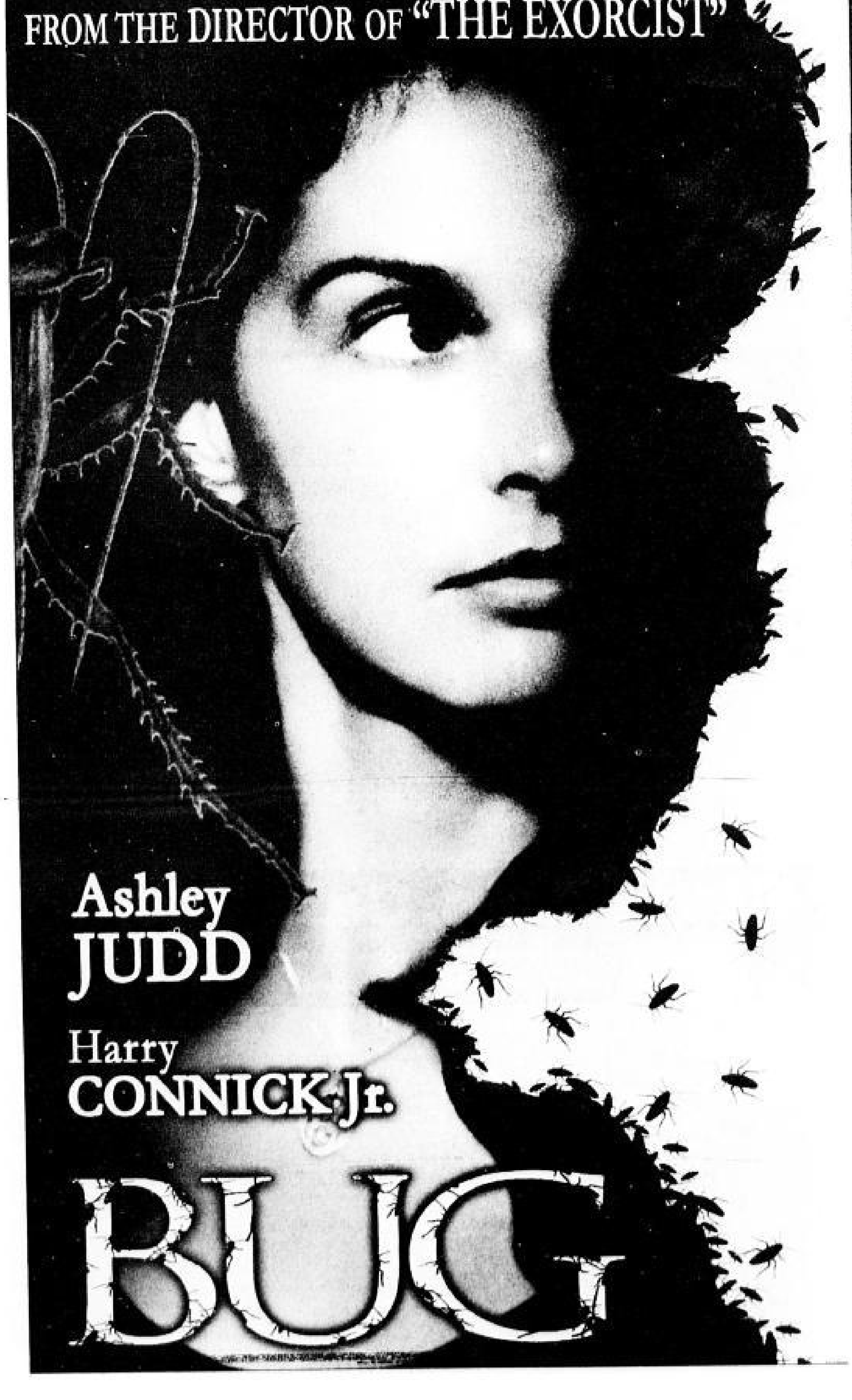
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE EXORCIST"
Ashley JUDD
Harry CONNICK Jr.
BUG

POWER PLANT
CINEMA

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41 DOLBY DIGITAL

NEXT PG13 1:50,4:05,6:20,8:35	NEXT PG13 1:25,3:40,5:55, 8:10,10:30	THE INVISIBLES PG13 1:20,3:35,5:50, 8:05,10:20
FANTASTIC FOUR: Rise of the Silver Surfer G 2:30,4:40,6:50,9:00	OCEAN'S THIRTEEN PG13 3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	FANTASTIC FOUR: Rise of the Silver Surfer G 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00

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TRANSFORMERS
MIDNIGHT SCREENING
12:01am | June 28, 2007
A RELEASE THROUGH

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THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 FANTASTIC FOUR 11:40 , 2:00 , 4:20 6:40 , 9:00 GP

CINEMA 2 THE INVISIBLE 12:15 , 2:50 , 5:20 7:50 , 10:20 PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 NEXT 12:15 , 2:25 , 4:35 6:45 , 9:00 PG-13

CINEMA 4 FANTASTIC FOUR 12:30 , 2:50 , 5:10 7:30 , 9:50 GP

CINEMA 5 FANTASTIC FOUR 10:45 , 1:10 , 3:30 5:50 , 8:10 , 10:30 GP

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MUSIC MUSEUM	August 24 & 25 , 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	June 29 July 06 , 13 , 20 & 27 August 8-9 , 15-16 , 22-23 , 29-30	Drag - Oris Cerrudo Classico Classic	10:00 PM 8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 FANTASTIC FOUR - RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (GP) 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30

2 NEXT MTRCB PG-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

3 EIGA SAI MTRCB R-13/PG-13/R-13 2:00, 5:00, 8:00

4 INVISIBLE MTRCB PG-13 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE FANTASTIC FOUR RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (GP) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

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for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

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JAPANESE CONTEMPORARY FILMS
June 21 - 26, 2007
Shang Cineplex, Cinema 3

June 21 (Thursday)
Shangri-la 2:00 pm
Blue Spring 5:00 pm
Out of this World 8:00 pm

June 22 (Friday)
Hotel Hibiscus 2:00 pm
Inochi 5:00 pm
No One's Ark 8:00 pm

June 23 (Saturday)
Blue 2:00 pm
Kamikaze Girls 5:00 pm
The Stars Converge 8:00 pm

June 24 (Sunday)
Kamikaze Girls 2:00 pm
Hotel Hibiscus 5:00 pm
Blue Spring 8:00 pm

June 25 (Monday)
Blue 2:00 pm
Inochi 5:00 pm
Out of this World 8:00 pm

June 26 (Tuesday)
Shangri-la 2:00 pm
The Stars Converge 5:00 pm
Harmful Insect 8:00 pm

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MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 (DOLBY) NEXT
3 (DOLBY) EGAI SAI
4 (DOLBY) INVISIBLE
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) INVISIBLE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 INVISIBLE
3 ANGELS
4 NEXT

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ANGELS
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickliberty.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433904
1 ANGELS
2 NEXT
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 INVISIBLE

THEATRES
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 ZODIAC
3 ANGELS

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA **CINEMAGIC**
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-5271
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ANGELS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) WILDERNESS
2 (SDDS) INVISIBLE
3 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 GOLD (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR
5 GOLD (DOLBY) NEXT
6 GOLD (SDDS) OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 ANGELS
10 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 (DOLBY) FRACTURE
3 (DOLBY) INVISIBLE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 INVISBLE
3 ANGELS
4 NEXT
5 SILIP

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ANGELS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 BORDERTOWN
4 SILIP

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 ANGELS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 WILDDERNESS

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 28 WEEKS LATER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 ANGELS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DTS ES) ZODIAC
4 INVISBLE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 SHOOTER

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) NEXT
2 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY) INVISBLE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SILIP
2 (DTS) INVISBLE
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SILIP
2 28 WEEKS LATER / SUNSHINE
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 LUCKY YOU
2 ANGELS
3 (DOLBY) MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
2 SILIP
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SILIP
2 FANTASTIC FOUR

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PREMONITION
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) FRACTURE
2 BOLD STAR
3 SILIP
4 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) INVISIBLE
2 SILIP
3 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FRACTURE
5 28 WEEKS LATER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
3 ANGELS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 OBSESSION
2 AKO IKAW SIYA

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ENTERTAINMENT

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NEW MTV VJs (from left) Andi, Sib and Kat

Not just 2, but 3 new VJs

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

A "THREE-WAY-TIE" LANDED A female radio jock, a former noontime show co-host, and a novice band singer into the winners' circle of the MTV VJ Hunt Finals Night on Friday at the SM Mall of Asia. There were supposed to be only two winners.

Andi Manzano (a.k.a. DJ Andi9 of Magic 89.9 FM), Kat Alano (erstwhile co-host at "Wowowee"), and Jonathan "Sib" Sibulo (vocalist of an upstart band) got the judges' nod as MTV's newest batch of VJs.

On Friday, 12 contenders were given the spotlight to prove their worth in several tests that ranged from conducting mock interviews with celebrity guests to answering tricky questions from a wisecracking TV comedian, and talking extemporaneously to introduce a music video.

Some of the contenders, including two of the winners, were obviously nervous. Most of them appeared to have flunked the mock interviews—with the exception of Sib, who fished out interesting replies from Francis M on the secrets of being a good VJ.

The tricky quizzes asked by comedian Tado to throw off the aspirants were a gas. Samples:

"*Kung* paracetamol *ang* generic name *ng gamot sa lagnat, bakit* yellow *ang kulay ng gitna ng* rainbow?"

"*Ang lason ba, 'pag nag*-expire *na, lason pa rin?*"

These sounded incomprehensible, especially to those who spoke English with a twang but couldn't express themselves in Tagalog.

Breaking the mold

MTV VJs in the Philippines used to sound and look almost exactly like their Western counterparts. Examples are Donita Rose, KC Montero, Belinda Panelo, Cindy Kurleto, KC Concepcion, Patty Laurel, Shannen Torres and Sarah Meier.

Last Friday, it seemed like the mold was about to be broken. A contender named Sheena, dark-skinned, earthy, sporting an elaborate hairstyle, elicited the loudest applause every time she went onstage. For a while she seemed on the verge of becoming a winner with her distinct voice, good interviewing skills and sassy demeanor.

She didn't even land in the Top 6.

Andi, on the other hand, didn't make much of an impression. She had an awkward smile and actually looked like a gangling kid in shorts, sneakers and knee-high socks. Her nervousness showed each time she walked offstage after doing her spiels. But it helped that she was a radio personality who knew her music. And she was *mestiza*.

Before the winners were announced, Andi ran off with two special awards from sponsors: the Samsung MP3 Music Personality Award and the Pond's Fresh Face Award. (She was once a Pond's model.)

Kat didn't look like a winner, either, though she was loudly applauded. It helped that she was a familiar face on TV and struck a very provocative pose after doing one of her spiels: "I'll show you why I'm hot…" And she was *mestiza*, too.

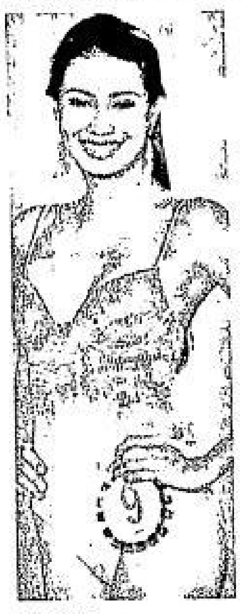
If anyone shattered the Caucasian-looking MTV VJ stereotype, it was Sib. Although he wasn't exactly *moreno*, he projected individuality and confidence without shrugging off his being Pinoy.

While most of the male contenders wore typical slacker or hip hop getup, Sib flaunted a retro new wave fashion sense complete with "My Sharona"-era necktie and black Doc Martens boots. And while the rest either sounded like an American rapper or British subject, he spoke with a neutral accent spiced with streetwise Tagalog.

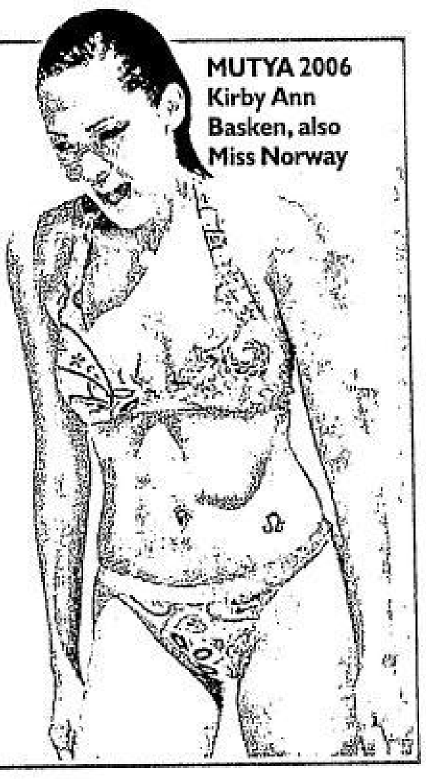
Sib's greatest moment occurred when it was time to show off a persona that would complement his image as a VJ. Flanked by two burly bodyguards, Sib strode onstage dressed as "a congressman from Nagacity." He put on an act like he had a son who joined the MTV VJ Hunt and was asking for his text votes to win. But since he had just won another term in Congress, he might as well use his influence and give cash. It was hilarious.

Mutya '06 spills Miss U secrets

MISS Universe Riyo Mori wrote unfriendly blog



NEW Mutya ng Pilipinas Zephorah Mayon RUDY ESPERAS



MUTYA 2006 Kirby Ann Basken, also Miss Norway

By Armin Adina

WHEN JAPAN'S RIYO MORI BAGGED the Miss Universe title last month, not everyone was happy, including some of her fellow contestants.

"The reaction among the candidates was 50-50," said Mutya ng Pilipinas '06 Kirby Ann Basken, who represented her father's native land Norway in the international competition held in Mexico.

She confirmed reports that Brazil's Natalia Guimaraes, who placed second, did not congratulate Riyo.

But the 21-year-old Filipino-Norwegian was quick to defend Riyo: "She's a very pretty girl. And the way she presented herself during the pageant was outstanding!"

But, Kirby told INQUIRER Entertainment last week, Riyo "could have done better."

The Japanese beauty queen drew flak for her online diary that chronicled events in the pageant. In one entry, she proclaimed she was going to win, while saying the other favorites were losing steam.

Not Asian?

Riyo also wrote that Philippine representative Anna Theresa Licaros once declined to be photographed with her, saying, "I'm not Asian."

An online pageant magazine clarified the incident. Globalbeauties.com said what happened was, Licaros saw a photographer taking pictures of the Asian contestants. She approached the photographer and said, "Hey, how about me? Am I not Asian?"

Kirby said the candidates knew of Riyo's blog entries but did not confront her because of the risk of creating a commotion. "There were 77 girls from different countries in one hotel for one month. If we had confronted each other because of some things done wrong, that could have been World War III," she surmised.

Last Friday, Kirby passed the Mutya crown to new winners Zephora Mayon (Mutya Asia-Pacific) and Ana Marie Morelos (Mutya-Tourism), during rites held at the Olongapo City Convention Center.

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Visayas
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San Isidro, Ormoc City

Mindanao
Florepis L. Pascual
Jabonga, Agusan Del Norte

To claim prizes, winners must present a valid I.D., the raffle stub with the corresponding winning number and the registered mail sent by Chowking to inform them of their winnings.

All winners should claim prizes at Chowking Head Office (33rd Floor, Jollibee Plaza, F. Ortigas Avenue, Ortigas Center). Look for Weng Escobar or Jelling Roxas.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0846, Series of 2007.

KID FIT

Dora the Explorer on board

"DORA The Explorer" giveaways

DORA, THE INQUISITIVE AND DETERMINED problem solver on children's television, is now on board Singapore Airlines flights.

Starting this month, young travelers will fly with Dora and her monkey companion Boots, as stuffed toys of these "Dora the Explorer" characters will accompany SIA passengers travelers aged 12 and below.

Other giveaways on SIA include activity sets, zip bags, Dora watches and Dora monkey slippers.

They are available on the three times daily services between Manila and Singapore.

"Dora The Explorer," the cartoon series, will also be shown on the inflight Entertainment System, KrisWorld.

The Just For Kids channel will likewise show the series "SpongeBob SquarePants," "Rugrats" and "The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron," plus the movies "Barnyard" and "The Rescuers."

'Ratatouille'

LINGUINI IS A kitchen boy who doesn't know how to cook. Remy is a rat whose impossible dream is to become a gourmet chef.

Meet them in Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studio's new animated adventure "Ratatouille."

Although they start out together out of desperation—Linguini needing to hang onto his job and Remy hoping to finally get his chance to work in a real live restaurant kitchen—Remy and Linguini gradually become buddies who learn they can count on one another.

Voicing Linguini is Lou Romano, who had served as a production designer on "The Incredibles" and had voiced some roles in earlier productions.

Opening soon nationwide, "Ratatouille" is distributed by Buena Vista International through Columbia Pictures.

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on June 28-30, 2007
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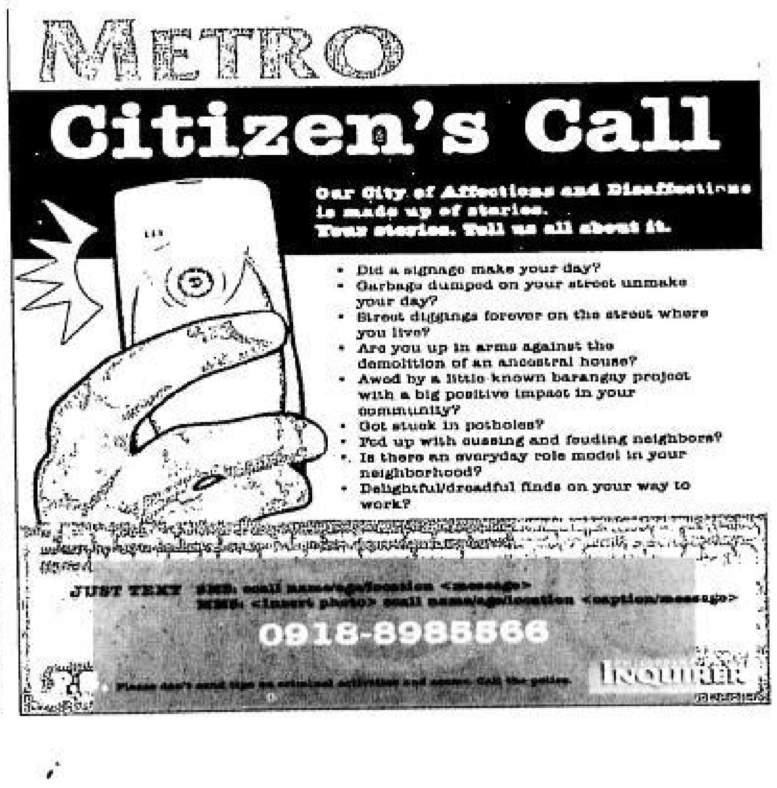
1 NEXT
1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
PG-13

2 FANTASTIC 4
12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
G

3 FANTASTIC 4
1:20, 3:40, 6:00
8:20, 10:50
G

4 INVISIBLE
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13



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- Garbage dumped on your street unmake your day?
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- Awed by a little known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
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